NUMBERS GAME

158	Lawmakers voted yes to the justice committee report dismissing all 3 complaints to impeach GMA.
52	Lawmakers voted no. (The House website said 51 voted no but it listed 52 names.)
6	Lawmakers abstained from voting.
20	Lawmakers did not vote.
3	Lawmakers signed the complaint but were no-shows (Imee Marcos, Joseph Santiago and Reynaldo Uy)
12	Lawmakers earlier called for GMA to resign but did not sign complaint; 7 eventually voted yes, 4 abstained, only one voted no.
13	Hours for the roll-call vote to be completed—from 3:50 a.m. Sept. 6 to 3:40 p.m.
4:30 p.m.	The plenary session began on Monday, Sept. 5, ending close to 24 hours later, making it the longest in the postwar history of the Philippine Congress.

■ News / A2

Lucio Tan asks 5 tycoons to rejoin him to run Naia 3 vs Emilio Yap

■ WORLD / A12

Katrina death toll in New Orleans may hit 10,000

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A28

Filipino film wins gold in Montreal World Film Festival

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Wednesday, September 7, 2005 ★★ 56 pages / 6 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 271 P18
website: www.inq7.net

As nation sleeps, 'over' debate keeps House awake

By John Nery and Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE THE NATION SLEPT IN THE WEE hours of Tuesday morning, two quick-witted congressmen kept the depleted House gallery awake with their repartee.

When the session resumed at 2:17 a.m., Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano

AS NATION/ A8

Impeachment dead but still no closure

GMA wins; fight on with two widows

By Norman Bordadora and TJ Burgonio

THE MARATHON SESSION OF the House of Representatives yesterday ended in a rout of the opposition attempt to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo but presaged a continuing political crisis, even another "people power" revolt.

The 236-member House in plenary session upheld—by a vote of 158 in favor and 52 against—the committee on justice report dismissing all three impeachment complaints alleging that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 election, was involved in corruption and condoned human rights violations.

Six abstained and 20 did not vote.

At over 23·hours, the session that started on Monday was one of the longest in the post war history of the Philippine Congress.

"It is time to put behind us this divisive episode of impeaching the President. It is time to embrace a period of healing and reconciliation for the nation," Speaker Jose de Venecia said after Bukidnon Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri explained the 158th "yes" vote for Committee Report No. 1012.

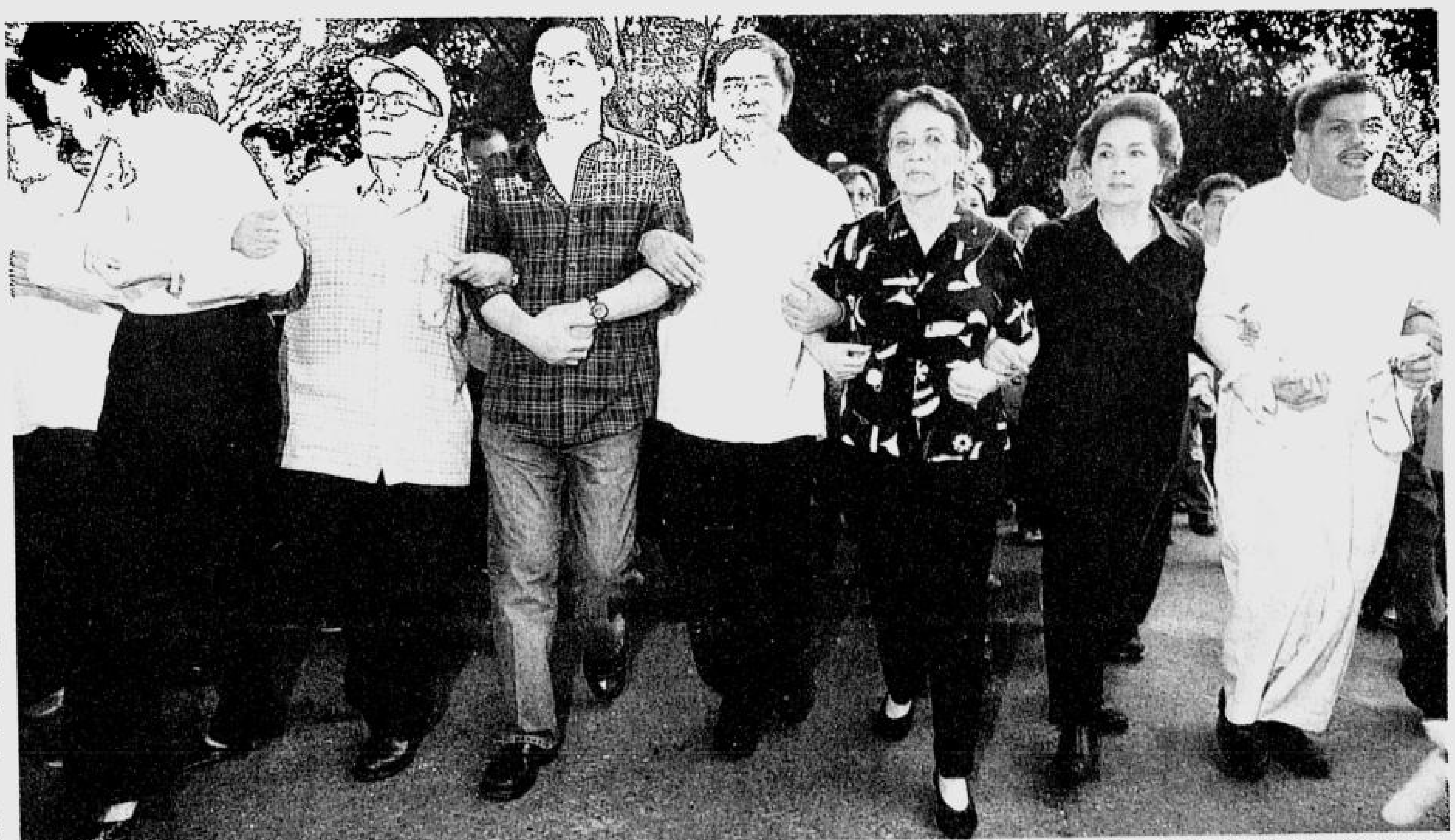
But San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, the lead impeachment lawyer, said he and his colleagues might consider the option of taking the fight to the Supreme Court. He said, however, the opposition had yet to discuss its next moves.

"I'm distressed that we will end up this way by killing the one impeachment complaint that contains a truly substantial case and its evidence, killing a complaint that the President should answer and the public wants her to answer," Zamora said.

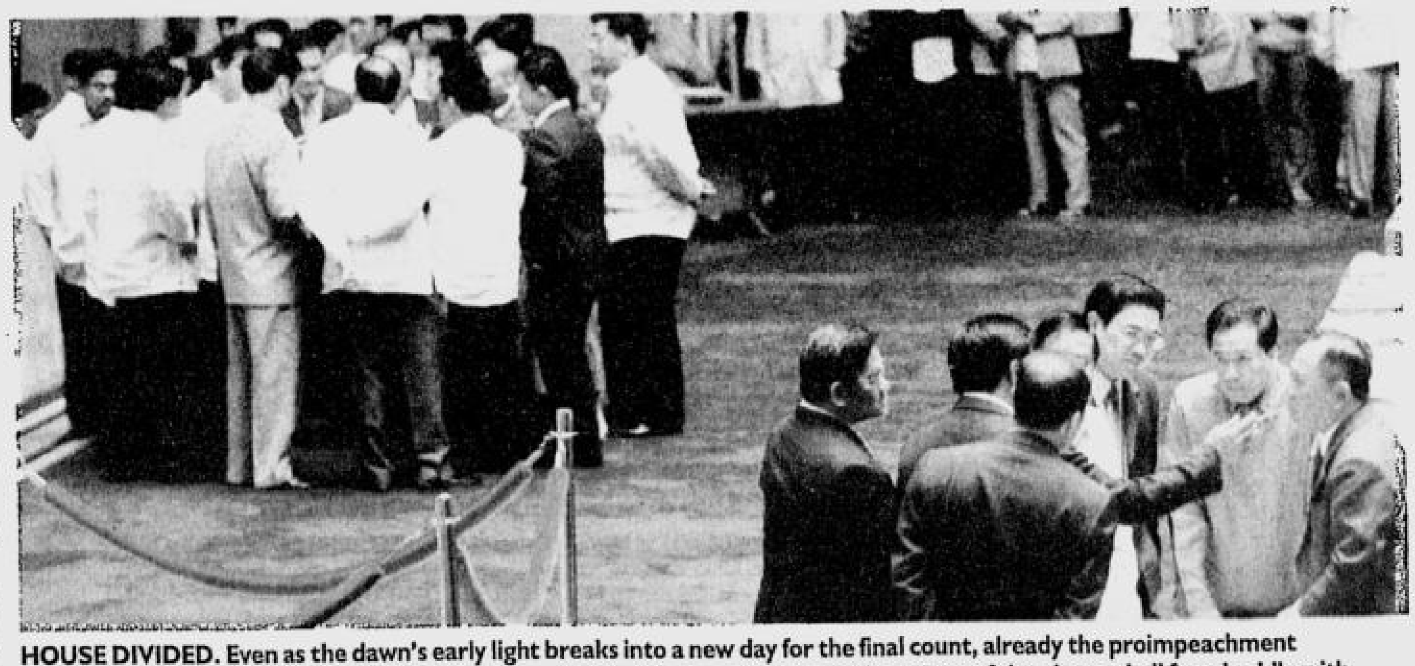
He said peaceful protest action in the streets was likewise an option.

"We will also give our evidence to Bukluran [Para sa Katotohanan] to see what they can do with it. Our effort of gathering evidence for three months will just go to waste if it

IMPEACHMENT/ A8



NOT QUITE people power but the grouping is no less magical for its unity in diversity. Akbayan Rep. Risa H. Baraquel, Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, Sen. Ping Lacson, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, former President Cory Aquino, actress Susan Roces and Br. Armin Luistro FSC link arms as they march toward the Batasang Pambansa. RYAN LIM



HOUSE DIVIDED. Even as the dawn's early light breaks into a new day for the final count, already the proimpeachment congressmen appear to be shunted to one corner (left) while the antis take to the center of the plenary hall for a huddle with House Speaker De Venecia. LYN RILLON

No people power yet but Cory, Susan hailed

By Volt Contreras, Fe Zamora, DJ Yap and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IT WAS NOT THE PEOPLE POWER that some had hoped for. But it was a start.

Two widows in black led thousands in a march demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo but ended up witnessing the dying gasps of an impeachment complaint filed against her in the House of Representatives.

Former President Corazon Aquino and actress Susan Roces, wife of Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Arroyo's closest rival in the 2004

NO PEOPLE/ A20

WHAT WENT WRONG

Erap's 6 votes fail

By Norman Bordadora and Nelson F. Flores

IN THE FIGHT TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, ousted Joseph "Erap" Estrada committed the votes of six lawmakers closely identified with him but none of them

ERAP'S/ A4

INC tipped balance for GMA, says solon

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO might have implored divine intervention in the most serious political crisis of her four-year administration but it was the hand of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo that ensured that the impeachment process would be decided in her favor, administration officials said yesterday.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the INC tipped the balance in favor of the President when the religious sect decided to flex its muscles and called on members of the House of Representatives whom its flock helped get elected in 2004.

INC TIPPED/ A20

Church stand on GMA not likely to change

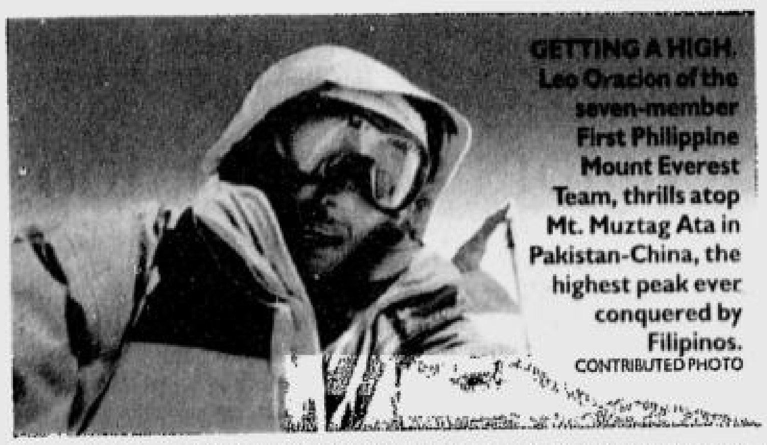
By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S ROMAN Catholic hierarchy is unlikely to change its position to stay away from calls for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo although Malacañang has squelched the Church's prescriptions to defuse the political tension, its leader said yesterday.

"Not in my lifetime," said Archbishop Fernando Capalla of Davao when asked by the INQUIRER if the prelates would revise their July 10 statement that had ostensibly helped Ms Arroyo survive the worst political crisis of

CHURCH/ A10

RP Everest team scales peak



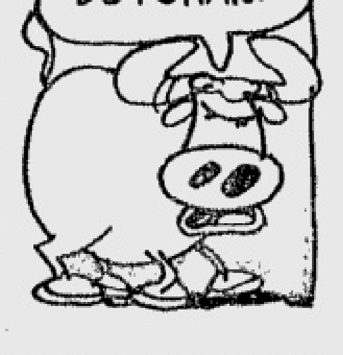
GETTING A HIGH. Leo Oracion of the seven-member First Philippine Mount Everest Team, thrills atop Mt. Muztag Ata in Pakistan-China, the highest peak ever conquered by Filipinos. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A GROUP OF FILIPINOS HAS reached the summit of the 7,546-meter (24,758-feet) Mt. Muztagh Ata along the Pakistan-China border—the highest peak Philippine mountaineers have ever climbed.

A press release from the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition yesterday said the Filipinos raised the Philippine flag atop Muztagh Ata on Aug. 25.

The team was headed by Regie Pablo and included Leo Oracion, Karina Dayondon, Levi Na-

RP EVEREST/ A10



SILA LANG MASAYA SA BOTOHAN!

3 hit 'jackpot' in Bunye's Palace lottery

By Christine O. Avendaño

THIS TIME, IT'S LEGAL.

A different numbers game was being played in Malacañang as lawmakers were voting on the fate of the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo

3 HIT/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY, CYRIL BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/07/05

DOT hopeful 2.5M will come this year

By Jerome Aning

SO ARE THEY COMING OR NOT?

Despite the political crises and terror threats plaguing the country, the Department of Tourism remained "highly optimistic" that it would go beyond its target of 2.5 million foreign tourist arrivals by the end of 2005.

"There is a great possibility that we are not only going to achieve our target of 2.5 million tourists arrivals for this year, but will surpass it with our programs," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said yesterday.

Durano's position contradicted the uncertainty expressed by Philippine Tourism Authority general manager Robert Dean Barbers, who said that political instability and the threats of terrorism would affect visitor arrivals.

"It's only logical that foreigners would get apprehensive about their security [here] even if there were no rallies or bombings in favorite tourist destinations," Barbers told reporters.

The PTA chief added that tourism stakeholders were "very, very worried" about what was happening in the country.

He said rallies and street protests in the metropolis were covered by international media giving the Philippines a bad image abroad.

Barbers blamed the political crises and terror threats on the country's failure to achieve its target of 20 percent in foreign tourist arrivals for the first semester. He cited DOT statistics showing that only 1.3 million foreign tourists arrived in the country from January to June 2005.

This was a mere 12.8 percent higher than the figure recorded in the same semester last year, he said.

"We could have had more if not for the threats to our country's stability and security," Barbers added.

He warned that if the Philippines would continue to be polarized by political uncertainties, the "substantial achievements" in promoting and marketing the country in Southeast and East Asia, North America and Europe would be for nothing.

Durano, however, remained upbeat. He cited DOT statistics showing that as of July 2005, there were 1.5 million foreign tourist arrivals.

Tan wants 5 taipans back in bid for Naia 3

By Clarissa S. Batino

CIGARETTE AND BEER magnate Lucio Tan has sought the support of his former partners in Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. to fend off the bid of Filipino-Chinese businessman Emilio Yap to operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

"Mr. Tan is asking the five other original proponents of AEDC to rejoin him in fighting for Naia 3," said AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay Jr. in an interview.

Salvador Mison, spokesperson for Tan, confirmed that the taipan had been inviting the original shareholders of AEDC to buy back their stake in the consortium.

"I just don't know when he had started inviting them. But I know he has started already especially with what's happening now," said Mison in an interview.

Mison said he had not received an official word from Tan as to whether any of the taipans have agreed to come back to AEDC.

AEDC, the original proponent of the Naia 3, was formed by Tan and five other taipans, including Henry Sy, owner of SM Malls; John Gokongwei, owner of JG Summit Corp., which includes Cebu Air Pacific; George Ty, owner of Metrobank and Toyota Phils.; Andrew Gotianun, owner of Filinvest Land Inc.; and Alfonso Yuchengco, owner of Rizal Banking Commercial Corp.

Tan owns Philippine Airlines, Allied Banking Corp., Philippine National Bank, Asia Brewery Inc. and his flagship business Fortune Tobacco Corp.

Fully owned

AEDC, which is now 100 percent owned by Tan, has offered to pay the government $300 million to operate Naia 3. Yap's Manila Hotel Corp., now the majority owner of Philippine International Air Terminals Co., had also asked the Arroyo administration to let it run Naia 3.

Manila Hotel is buying Fraport's 61 percent stake in Piatco for $200 million. It also acquired the combined 20 percent interests of Sojitz Corp. and SB Airport Investment Corp. in Piatco for $30 million.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, a member of the government's inter-agency committee on Naia 3, said the opening of the new airport terminal, the implementation of the expanded value-added tax and the rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway were the three items that the business community would like in place.

Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said the five other taipans sold their stake in AEDC to Tan after the government awarded the build-operate-and-transfer contract to Piatco in the late 90s.

Established by the country's six prominent taipans during the Ramos administration, AEDC submitted an unsolicited offer to put up and operate Naia 3 for $350 million.

But when the project was subjected to a Swiss challenge, the Ramos administration said Piatco submitted a better offer. Except for Tan, the other taipans decided to let go of the project.

Yasay said the AEDC can readily pay the government the $300 million it had offered. The amount, he said, should cover the construction of the terminal and the remaining loose ends that needed to be done so the terminal could finally operate.

"The government can use a portion of the $300 million for just compensation and about $60 million to complete the terminal," he said.

Yasay claimed that AEDC now has the "legal right" to operate Naia 3 after the Supreme Court nullified Piatco's contract with the government in 2002.

Valid claim

The Arroyo administration seized the airport facility in December 2004, hoping to open it by June, and now by December.

AEDC is pressing the Department of Transportation and Communication to recognize its "valid claim."

Manila International Airport Authority general manager Alfonso Cusi said the government must bid out the operations of Naia 3.

But Yasay claimed there was no need for a bidding since the Supreme Court has nullified Piatco's contract with the government.

"This means that AEDC is now the only unchallenged winner of the bidding because the offer of a supposedly superior bid from Piatco was nullified," he said.

Asked to comment on the pronouncements of AEDC, Manila Hotel president Jose Lina said he had referred INQUIRER's Sept. 5 story on AEDC "to the legal department."

"Damage has been done. You should have asked for our comment while making our story that appeared today in PDI," said Lina in a text message to this reporter Monday night.

Over the weekend, Lina was asked to comment on previous Naia 3 stories and he said: "Just wait for my press statement."

AEDC released a press statement on Sunday alleging that Piatco, now controlled by Manila Hotel, is holding President Arroyo hostage. Yasay linked Manila Hotel's buyout of Fraport to the impeachment complaint filed against the President.

"Piatco has threatened to execute an affidavit saying the family of President Arroyo and officials of her government received money from the Fraport if MHC (Manila Hotel) does not get the government into allowing it to operate the mothballed airport facility," said the AEDC statement attributed to Yasay.

P57B in ill-gotten wealth went to land reform—PCGG

By Alcuin Papa

ABOUT P57.29 BILLION OF ILL-GOTten ASsets recovered from the family and associates of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos went to the government's land reform program, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said yesterday.

Almost 63 percent of the total funds, or P35.89 billion, were transferred during the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, said PCGG commissioner Nicasio Conti in a statement.

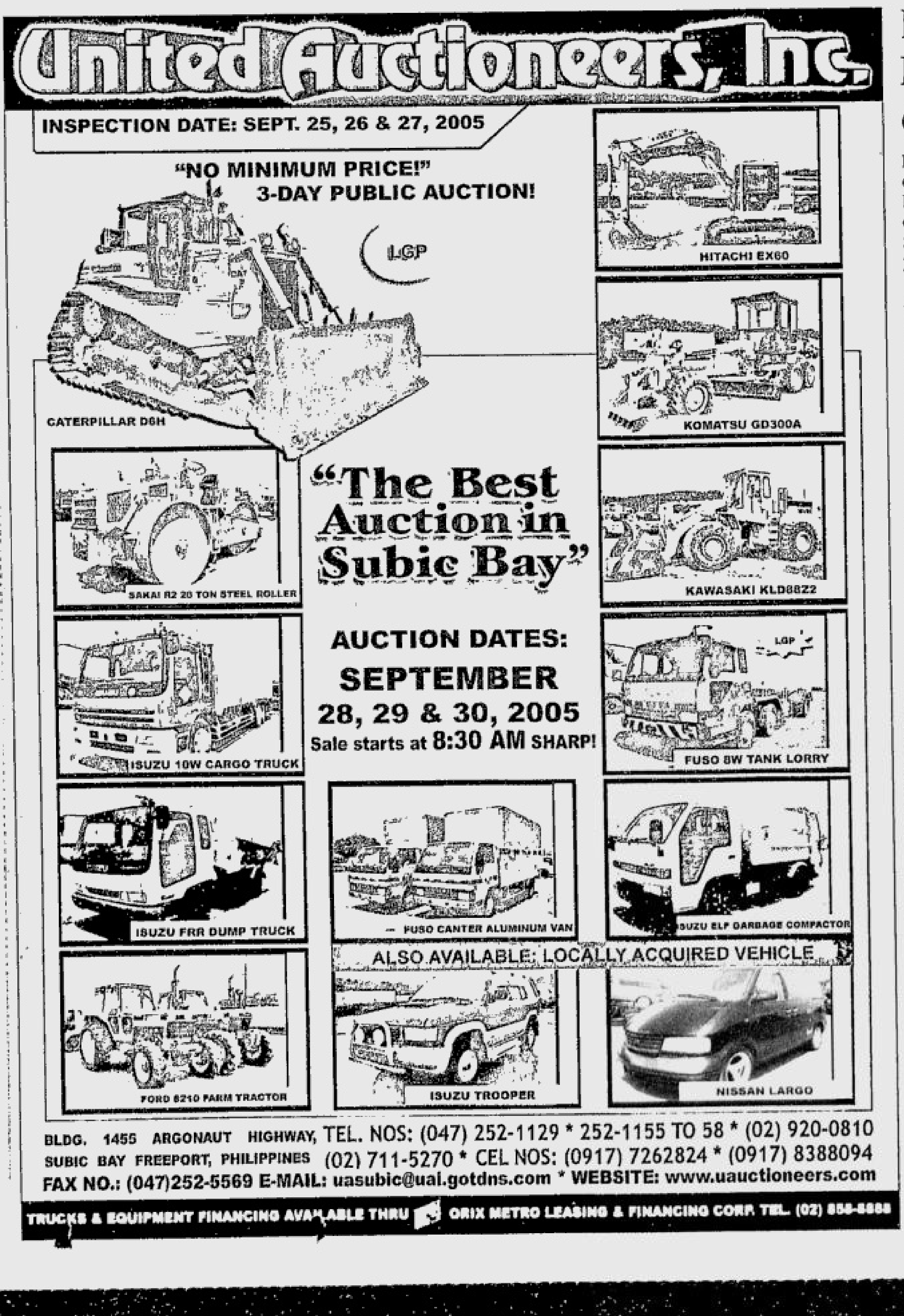
The bulk of the P57.29 billion Marcos assets turned over by the PCGG between 1986 and August 2005 had been recovered during the Arroyo administration, said Conti in the statement.

The PCGG, formed in 1986, is tasked with the recovery of money allegedly stolen by the Marcos family and their allies.

The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism claimed in a recent report that a big part of the recovered Marcos assets worth P1 billion had been diverted to local government officials before the 2004 presidential election.

At a press conference at the Department of Land Reform yesterday, Conti explained that the PCGG was required by law to turn over all funds from the recovered Marcos ill-gotten assets to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

He said the recovered assets mostly came from compromise agreements made with Marcos cronies and proceeds from the privatization of assets surrendered by the cronies. Some allies of Marcos resorted to out-of-court settlements to escape prosecution.



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Ex-solon Monfort dies; 77

FORMER REP. NARciso Dolar Monfort of Iloilo died on Monday at the age of 77, a family member said yesterday.

Monfort, who represented Iloilo in Congress for terms from 1987 to 2004, died at his residence in Mandaluyong. He had been suffering from cancer of the prostate.

He was also elected assemblyman in the Interim and then Regular Batasang Pambansa representing Western Visayas from 1978 to 1987.

A doctor of medicine by profession, Monfort started in government service as President Ramon Magsaysay's presidential assistant on health. He served in the same capacity during the term of President Carlos Garcia.

Monfort was presidential adviser on political affairs under President Diosdado Macapagal.

He is survived by his wife, Carmencita Guevara Monfort, son, Jose Luis Monfort and daughter Carmen Rita Monfort Bautista.

His body lies at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills and will be flown to Iloilo on Sunday, Sept. 11 for interment.

DEBT-FOR-FOREST SWAP

US condones $41M in debts

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE UNITED STATES HAS FORgiven $41.5 million of the Philippines' debt but is channeling the $8.25 million the money would have earned in interest over 14 years to fund reforestation projects in the country.

The debt-for-forest swap would put P453 million into a reforestation fund, nearly nine times bigger than the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' measly P56-million allocation for its reforestation program.

The Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), which will handle the fund, said the reforestation initiative aims to restore the ideal 15-million hectares of forest in the country, or 40 percent of its total land area.

The Philippines has lost 14 million ha of forest since the turn of the century.

"This is not just an initiative. This is an emergency ... What we lost the past decades were lowland dipterocarp forests housing 90 percent of our biodiversity. We have to focus on restoring what has been lost," said PTFCF executive director Maria Paz Luna in a press conference yesterday.

Dipterocarpaceae are an Asian tree family of valuable aromatic wood with two-winged fruit.

The Philippines has 7.2 million ha of forest left, 33 percent more than it had 20 years ago when it had 5.4 million ha, according to DENR records.

Citing studies, Luna said the Philippines would only have 310,000 ha of primary forest left by 2010 if deforestation went on unabated. The country has 800,000 ha of old-growth forest left.

"The largest and most direct causes of deforestation in the Philippines have been the large-scale corporate logging, mining and conversion to agriculture," Luna said.

The Philippine and US governments on Sept. 19, 2002, signed an agreement to place the $8.25 million in interest payments in a fund that would support an aggressive reforestation effort.

The Philippines will pay the $8.25 million to the PTFCF at the rate of $500,000 every six months, diminishing over 14 years.

A board composed of five non-government organization representatives, the environment and finance secretaries, and representatives from the US Embassy in Manila and the US Agency for International Development will manage the fund.

Senators adjourn, too

TAKING ITS CUE FROM THE House of Representatives, the Senate yesterday adjourned its sessions a day ahead of schedule.

"The House already adjourned so we will adjourn. Really, there is only tomorrow remaining and given the fact that the House went through a 24-hour session, it's too much to expect them... and it's not fair to expect them to continue the sessions," Senate President Franklin Drilon said.

"They deserve the rest. We will have no more sessions tomorrow."

Hearings on proposed legislation, however, will continue at the Senate until tomorrow.

SC junks Pasig bid to expropriate land of Bro. Eddie's JIL

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT HAS junked the Pasig city government's bid to expropriate a lot belonging to the Jesus Is Lord Christian School Foundation Inc., saying the city has failed to show that it needs the lot as an access road.

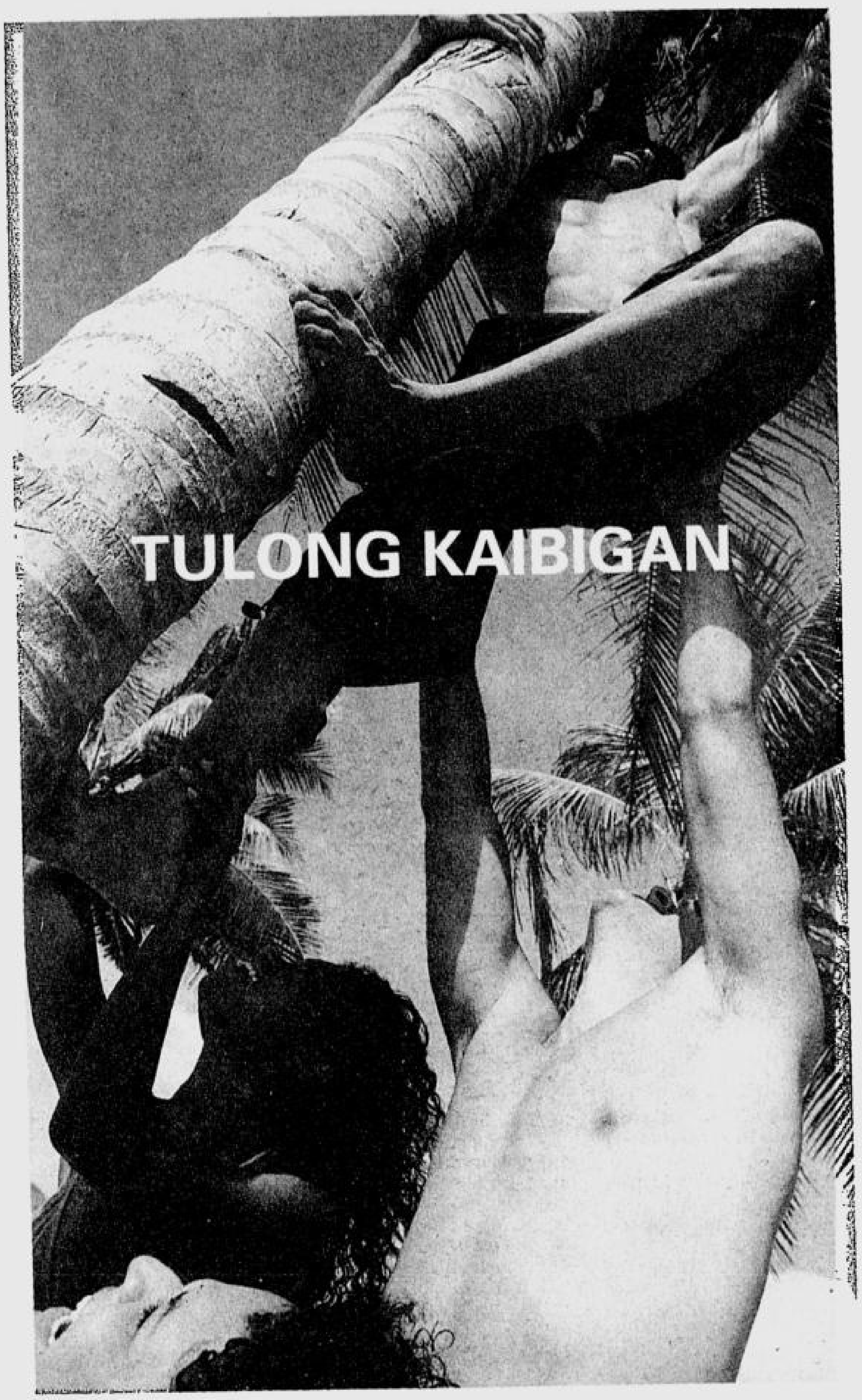
In its Aug. 9 decision, the high court also took the city government to task for failing to make a "valid and definite offer to purchase a specific portion of the property for a certain price."

The ruling, in effect, reversed the decisions of the Pasig Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals allowing the expropriation of the JIL's 51-square-meter property to serve as access road from E.R. Santos Street and Barangay Sto. Tomas Bukid in Pasig.

The court said the Pasig government also failed to establish the need for the access road right in the JI's property, which measures over a thousand square meters.

Defeated presidential candidate Eduardo Villanueva chairs the JIL school foundation.

"Expropriation is justified so long as it is for the public good and there is genuine necessity of public character. Government may not capriciously choose what property should be taken," the court said.



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Lawyer asks high court to review impeach law

By Armand N. Nocum

THE LAWYER AFTER WHOM AN impeachment "doctrine" has been named has once more asked the Supreme Court to review the law which provides that only one impeachment complaint can be filed in a year against an impeachable official.

Saying the law can be used as a "shield" by corrupt officials, lawyer Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. yesterday refiled a petition which the high court dismissed last week for being premature.

In his first petition, Francisco asked the court to declare unconstitutional certain provisions of the House rules on impeachment, especially that which prohibits the filing of more than one impeachment complaint in a year.

Francisco said it was time to seek the court's ruling now that the House committee on justice had thrown out the impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said "it is unfortunate that the Francisco ruling or Francisco doctrine" had been used by administration representatives" to throw out the amended complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo."

Susceptible to abuse

Francisco failed to provide newsmen with a copy of his 79-page complaint which he filed after office hours.

But he said in a telephone interview that he raised the same arguments he made when he filed his first complaint last week.

"The ruling that an impeachment proceeding is deemed initiated by the mere filing of an impeachment complaint and its referral to the Committee on Justice is clearly susceptible [to] abuse and will effectively shield a corrupt, impeachable official from impeachment," Francisco said.

Sham complaints

He said that all that an impeachable official needed to do to avoid being impeached "is to yearly ask somebody to file a sham impeachment complaint or a complaint which can easily be declared insufficient in form and substance and have it endorsed by an ally-representative."

Francisco added: "Consequently, the said official will always be immune from impeachment by virtue of the one-year bar rule under Article XI, Section 3 (5) of the Philippine Constitution," he said of the constitutional ban on the filing of more than one complaint a year.

SC ruling

Francisco is the lawyer after whom the "Francisco ruling" or "Francisco doctrine" was named. This was after he and 17 others filed a petition in November 2003 "seeking to nullify certain provisions of the impeachment rules and bar the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr."

The matter eventually reached the Supreme Court and the high tribunal ruled in Francisco's favor in its "Francisco Jr. vs the House of Representatives" decision.

"Under the Francisco ruling, an impeachment proceeding is deemed initiated upon the filing of an impeachment complaint and its referral to the Committee on Justice. Thus, the Honorable Court declared Rule V, Sections 16 and 17 unconstitutional and barred the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Davide," he said in his complaint.

"CALMING EFFECT:" The presence of the two widows at the afternoon rally makes the cops "extra, extra tolerant." Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, head of the prosecution panel that never was, hands over to Aquino and Roces the ill-fated amended impeachment complaint. LYN RILLON

Erap allies in House fail to deliver votes to impeach GMA

From page A1

delivered, fueling speculation of a compromise between him and the Arroyo administration.

Under the supposed deal, the former President would get a favorable response from the Sandiganbayan to his longstanding petition for bail.

At least two opposition sources in the House of Representatives told the INQUIRER that Estrada summoned San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora to his Tanay, Rizal, rest house where the former leader is being held under house arrest.

The sources said the meeting took place after the proimpeachment congressmen announced they already had the commitment of more than 20 congressmen and that all they needed was a single-digit number of signatures to obtain the 79 required to impeach Ms Arroyo.

"President Estrada committed the votes of six congressmen. It's just sad that they weren't able to vote," a very reliable source at the House told the INQUIRER after the chamber junked the impeachment complaints.

The source confirmed the information from another source close to the opposition about Zamora being summoned to Tanay by Estrada to discuss the six votes.

The key Six

The source said the six votes were to have been those of Caloocan Rep. Baby Asistio, Quezon City Rep. Vincent Crisologo, Maguindanao Rep. Baisendig Dilangalen, Caloocan Rep. Oscar Malapitan, Bulacan Rep. Pablo Pancho and Valenzuela Rep. Antonio Serapio.

"Erap called him and said, 'You need six votes? Come here'," the source quoted Estrada as saying.

Asistio, Crisologo, Malapitan, Pancho and Serapio all failed to vote. Dilangalen, wife of Estrada spokesperson, fierce supporter and former Congressman Didagen Dilangalen, abstained.

"I cannot vote for the committee report, but I am also [not in favor] of the impeachment," Dilangalen said on the floor, to explain her abstention vote.

Late last night, ANC News reported that her husband had resigned as Estrada's spokesperson.

Absent

Asistio ran under the Nationalist People's Coalition and is a friend of Estrada's from way back.

Dilangalen and Pancho belong to Estrada's party Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Crisologo and Malapitan belong to the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino while Serapio is a member of the NPC.

For some reason, they were not physically present to register their votes.

Despite earlier boasts that they had 73 actual or pledged signatures—six shy of the magic number—the opposition came up way short with only 52.

Zamora told the INQUIRER that all those in the opposition who failed to vote had their own respective reasons for not voting against the justice committee report quashing the impeachment cases.

Estrada dismayed

"All of them have their own reasons," Zamora said.

He would not comment on his alleged call on Estrada.

Lanao del Sur Rep. Faysah Dumarpa and Alif party-list Rep. Acmad Tomawis, whose siblings were appointed to key positions at the Office on Muslim Affairs and a related agency dealing with pilgrimages, both voted for the committee report.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Estrada expressed dismay at the defeat of the impeachment complaint.

He said it was lamentable that his Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino had only two elected members—Zamora and Dilangalen—in the House.

She had her reasons

Estrada explained that Dilangalen abstained in the voting to be consistent with her position that Ms Arroyo was not impeachable because she was not, in the first place, the real winner in the 2004 election.

"An impeachment proceeding is applicable only to a truly impeachable official," said Estrada, who is facing plunder and perjury charges before the Sandiganbayan.

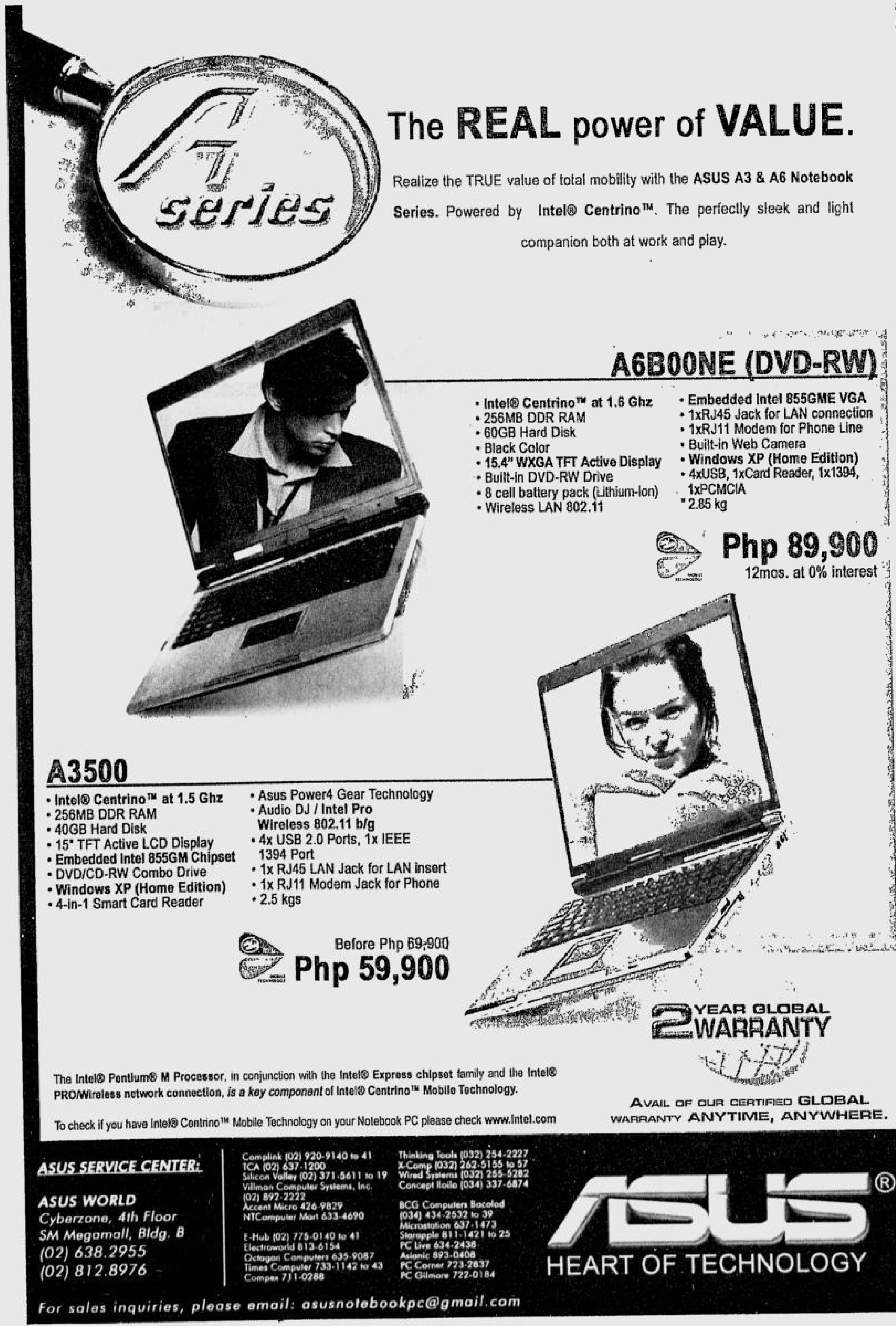
The ex-President said the House of Representatives betrayed democracy when it ignored the people's voice.

The result of the vote clearly showed that Ms Arroyo would do anything to stay in power, he said.

Estrada said Ms Arroyo should not have influenced the House vote but allowed herself to be tried in a Senate impeachment court, like he did during his term.

"They did not follow due process then and instead walked out of the impeachment trial," Estrada said, recalling what happened in his own impeachment trial before he was ousted in a popular revolt in 2001.

"Now, they're still not following due process."



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3 hit 'jackpot' in Bunye's Palace lottery

From page A1

in the House yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye engaged his staff members and reporters covering Malacañang in a lottery, asking them to predict what would be the final vote tally at the House.

The Palace participants were asked to guess how many lawmakers would end up abstaining from, voting in support of, and voting against the House justice committee's decision to junk the impeachment case against the President.

3 winners

The verdict in the House of Representatives came after 3 p.m. or nearly 24 hours after the congressmen started to deliberate in plenary the impeachment complaint. The final tally showed 158 lawmakers voting yes, 52 voting no and six abstaining from the vote.

At the Palace, out of the 35 who took part in Bunye's lottery, three were declared winners.

They were picked for having the closest winning guesses, according to Bunye.

The winners were Paolo Romero of Philippine Star and Lira Dalangin-Fernandez of INQ7.net, who both predicted a turnout of 158-50-4, and Maribel Dario of the Office of Press Undersecretary Abel de Leon, who guessed 160-52-6.

So how did they figure it out?

Romero said he made an "educated guess," Dario had a "gut feel" after watching the House proceedings, while Dalangin said she got tips from friends in the House.

Romantic dinner for 2

"It was just for fun," Bunye told the INQUIRER when asked the purpose of the lottery.

The presidential spokesperson reminded everyone how, a few weeks ago, he had raffled off a free jacket to reporters and his staff.

This time, however, the winners will each get a gift certificate for "a romantic dinner for two" at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

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WHAT STONEWALLING?

'Garci' hunt now global

By Nikko Dizon and Leila Salaverria

GARCILLANO

ACCUSED of stonewalling on the whereabouts of Virgilio Garcillano, the Department of Foreign Affairs launched yesterday a global hunt for the controversial former election commissioner.

"We sent circulars today to our posts all over the world to obtain information on him because we don't know where he is," Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin said in a phone interview yesterday.

The DFA previously gave similar instructions to its embassies in Singapore and Malaysia after it was reported that Garcillano fled to either of these countries at the height of the "Hello, Garci" controversy.

It has also directed its consulate in New York City to see if Garcillano might be in New Jersey. He was also reported by the media to have flown to London.

All reports to DOJ

Last month, the DFA said the Singapore government had confirmed that Garcillano arrived in the city-state last July 14 but left the following day for an unknown destination.

Garcillano provoked a national uproar when he disappeared from public view in June following allegations that he was the man President Macapagal-Arroyo was talking to in the so-called "Hello, Garci" tapes dealing with an alleged conspiracy to tamper with the results of the 2004 elections.

The other day, Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said he learned from diplomatic sources that Garcillano flew last month to Singapore using a Subic Air Learjet, and accused the DFA of giving his office a runaround when he asked for information.

The DFA has denied receiving any such information.

In a text message sent to reporters, DFA spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said that the department "has forwarded all reports regarding Virgilio Garcillano Jr. to the Department of Justice."

"The DOJ is heading the investigation on Mr. Garcillano."

Will take blame if...

Asuque added that "the DFA continues to monitor the whereabouts of Mr. Garcillano and will forward any new information to the DOJ."

Ebdalin explained that the DOJ was the department tasked by Malacañang to investigate the Garcillano flight.

Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. said he was willing to take the blame if it was proved that the bureau had covered up Garcillano's flight to Singapore.

"If it's established, I would accept responsibility," he said in a phone interview.

Fernandez said the BI had gone to great lengths to check its records but it had found none that would show that Garcillano had left the country.

"Garcillano was never cleared by immigration to leave the country. In the flight manifest of the Subic Air flight, only the names of the pilot, co-pilot and mechanic were listed," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 7, 2005
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 3:1-11
Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said,

"Fortunate are you who are poor, the kingdom of God is yours.

"Fortunate are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Fortunate are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Fortunate are you when people hate you, when they reject you and insult you and number you among criminals, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. Remember that is how the ancestors of this people treated the prophets.

"But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

"Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

"Alas for you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

"Alas for you when people speak well of you, for that is how the ancestors of these people treated the false prophets."

Commentary

Jesus begins the most densely packed sermon in Luke's gospel: on the plain by raising his eyes to his disciples, which means he is kneeling on the ground before them, as servant. And he gives the four blessings and the four woes that bind others to him: blessings for the poor, those hungry and weeping and for those rejected, hated and insulted and treated poorly, as he was treated. And woes for the wealthy, the secure and full, those oblivious to others' needs and happy in their insensitivity and those who are deemed successful and blessed in this world. There are only two choices at distant spectrums. Where do we stand? Or how close to our suffering servant master do we find ourselves because of what we do and who we share our lives with? Jesus kneels before us and invites us down to where he kneels, humbly upon the ground.

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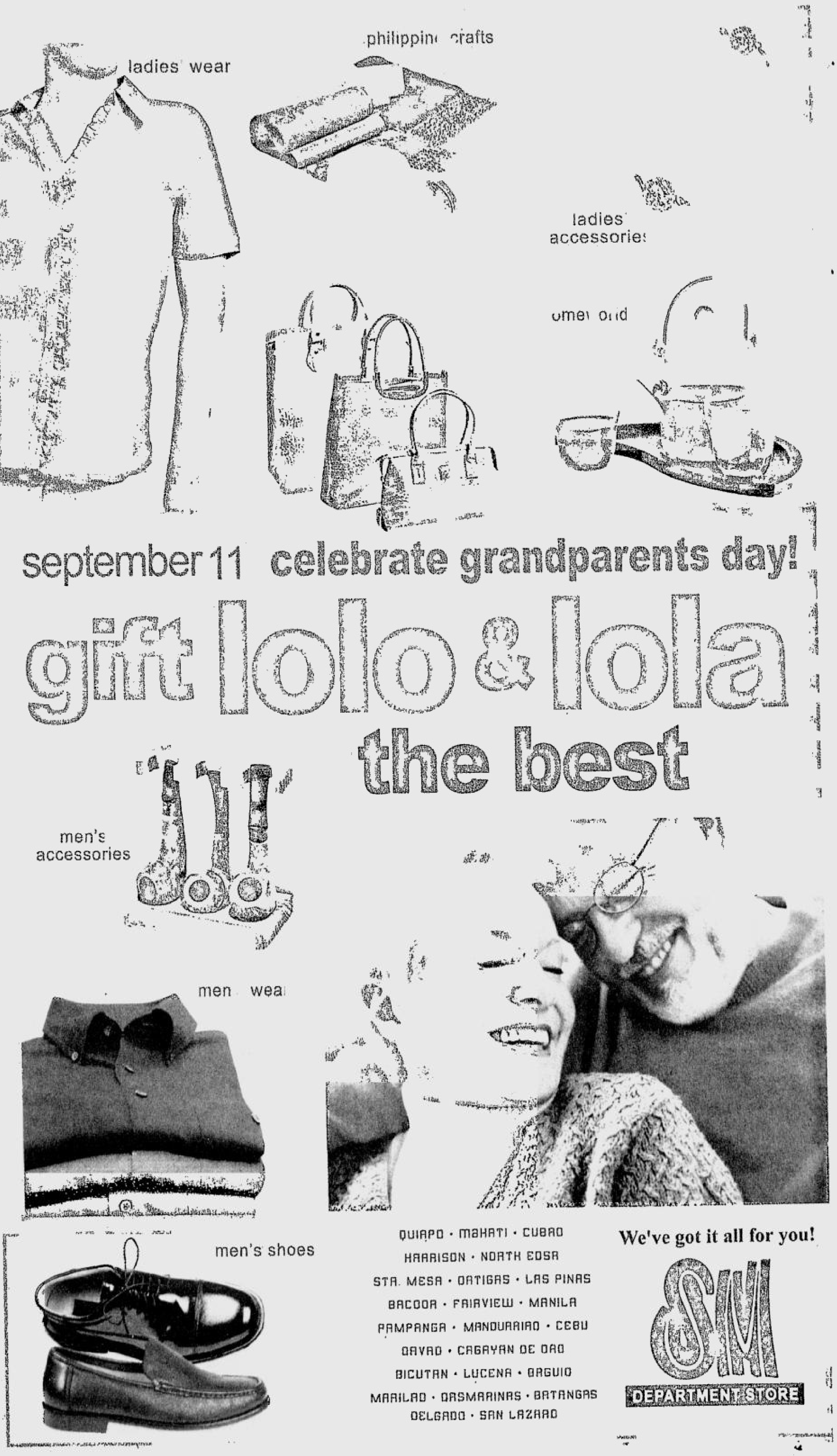
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A declaration of support for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo by Business Leaders and Movers of the Economy Nationwide for Political Reform and National Unity

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- That President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is our duly-elected President, with the constitutional right and duty to serve the Filipino people;
- That we should give room for the government to implement its agenda for political and economic reforms, with social focus on the economy;
- That the impeachment process and the rule of law should take its course as provided for by the Constitution and the rules set by Congress.
- That public participation in the on-going consultations for charter change is necessary to help craft a better future for Filipino people. This constitutional change must happen now.
- That we, the people, should work together with the government to build a prosperous economy with thriving private and public sectors, attractive and open to investments, that integrates the country into the regional and international community, and provides jobs, housing, education, and healthcare and other economic opportunities for all Filipinos.

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Estrada a victim of double standard —Saguisag

By Nelson F. Flores

FORMER SEN. RENE Saguisag yesterday accused the administration of using a double standard of justice when it charged ex-President Joseph Estrada with perjury, while ignoring other similar cases, including that of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Saguisag said documents from the Ombudsman, the Executive Secretary, and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that, except for Estrada, no other person had been charged with perjury in violation of Republic Act 6713 concerning the filing of Statement of Asset, Liabilities and Net Worth.

RA 6713 is the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Government Officials and Employees.

Saguisag said all those initially charged with violation of RA 6713 in connection with their filing of an incomplete or erroneous SALN were given a chance to correct their error as provided for by law.

GMA's case

He cited a case in 1998 when then Ombudsman Aniano Disierto dismissed a graft case filed by lawyer Ricardo Valmonte against Ms Arroyo. The case arose from the then vice president's alleged failure to declare her business interests and financial connections as well as real estate property in the United States, in her SALN for the years 1996 and 1997.

Saguisag said that, in dismissing the charges, the Ombudsman noted that Ms. Arroyo was not given a chance to correct the error in her SALN due to the failure of the Office of the Ombudsman to create a review and compliance committee as required by RA 6713.

"Why was then President Estrada charged with perjury emanating from a case similar to that of Ms Arroyo's when it was clearly established that the Ombudsman also failed to create the same committee to allow him to correct the errors in his SALN, if any?" Saguisag asked.

Saguisag also cited documents signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dismissing similar cases involving national and local officials because there was no review and compliance committee.

Saguisag also noted that Estrada was the only person charged with illegal use of an alias as borne by a BSP certification dated Aug. 18, 2005.

But no less than BSP representative Cresenciano Orlas has testified in court that the alias law has not been implemented despite the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law, Saguisag said.

This shows that Estrada is being selectively prosecuted, he said.

Estrada, who is detained in his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, is also facing plunder charges.

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Impeachment dead but still no closure

From page A1

won't achieve anything," Zamora added in reference to the newly formed coalition led by former President Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces, widow of movie idol and 2004 opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

'Glorious day'

Ms Arroyo, who reportedly closely followed the debate all night Monday, issued a statement thanking her family, her political allies and the Filipino people "who have stayed the course of responsible democracy."

"Let us move on to a brighter tomorrow with the grace of God, ever grateful for His guidance and His blessings," she said.

Malacañang was apparently expecting a victory for the President as the statement was marked: "Embargo until the final voting results are known."

"The Filipino people mark a glorious day in history, when instead of forcing a President out of office through 'people power,' they chose to keep a President through voting in the halls of constitutional democracy," Ms Arroyo said, adding:

"The opposition put up a good fight and I now offer my hand in reconciliation for the national interest."

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero, however, said: "We respect and honor the decision. But it does not mean we approve of it."

And Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said: "The people's hope for truth and change has inexorably passed from Congress to the parliament of the streets."

Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Manuel Roxas II observed that while the pro-Arroyo lawmakers followed the legislative process, they failed to put to rest the questions raised against Ms Arroyo, including the legitimacy of her presidency.

Said Enrile: "Yes, it went through according to form and substance. There was debate, acrimony, theatrics. There was too much verbiage, and finally ... a voting process. So the process was attained.

"...But to say that [the issue] has been totally resolved, no. The problem lingers on. It will affect you and me, everybody else, the entire country."

Added Roxas: "While the system may have worked procedurally, it possibly did not work because the issues remain outstanding and in fact will find expression in other venues."

'Unfinished business'

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan predicted that senators would seek an inquiry into the House's "unfinished business," or the "allegations against President Arroyo that were not addressed in the impeachment process."

SCENES FROM THE LONGEST DAY: Lawmakers in various stages of sleep and wakefulness. Clockwise from top left, Speaker De Venecia, justice committee chair Datumanong, an unidentified yawning solon, Iggy Arroyo, Arthur Defensor, Cynthia Villar, Antonio Roman and another unidentified solon munching on popcorn (middle).

PDI/AP/AFP/REUTERS

The 39-page committee report dismissed the betrayal of public trust charges filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano on June 27 and by lawyer Jose Lopez on June 30.

It also dismissed the amended Lozano complaint filed by the minority on July 25 for culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, and betrayal of public trust.

"[The Lopez and amended complaints] are prohibited complaints which are barred by the complaint filed by ... Lozano pursuant to [the constitutional provision barring multiple impeachment complaints from being filed against one official within a year of each other]," read the report signed by 37 members of the justice committee.

The Lozano complaint, on the other hand, was dismissed for insufficiency of substance. The committee pointed out that the complaint alleged electoral fraud committed before Ms Arroyo's current presidential term.

'Silliest' session

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said the session that started at 4 p.m. on Monday and ended at 3:40 p.m. yesterday could easily be the longest and "silliest" in Philippine history.

According to House records, the session was the longest since 1987, when Congress was reopened after being padlocked by martial law in 1972.

"Imagine debating on the number of times the gavel was banged" during the referral of the three impeachment complaints to the justice committee," he said.

Nograles was referring to Escudero's questioning of Camarines Norte Rep. Luis Villafuerte, who defended the committee report on the floor from 2 a.m. to around 3:35 a.m. yesterday.

The debate involving the banging of the gavel actually dwelt on whether the original Lozano complaint, the Lopez complaint and the amended Lozano complaint were referred to the committee with just one bang of the gavel or with three bangs (one after the referral of each complaint).

Escudero argued that the three complaints were referred to the committee at the same time and with just one bang of the gavel.

But Villafuerte said the gavel was banged once after each complaint was referred.

'A sad day'

"It's a sad day because effectively we have told the world, our children, [and] our people that it's OK to do something wrong because you can just sweep it under the rug," said Sen. Pia Cayetano.

The senator, only sister of Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, spokesperson of the proimpeachment lawmakers, lamented the failure of certain people to see the wisdom of seeking the truth on allegations of electoral fraud and graft and corruption.

"We're telling everybody that it's OK to stop searching for the truth, it's OK not to explain why one person who had a lot to do with this problem is missing ... That's the kind of message we're sending," she said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the dismissal of the impeachment complaints did not constitute closure: "While the impeachment has been killed, that would not solve the political crisis. There are still protests in the streets."

He also warned of "the more serious economic crisis that should be coming when the full impact of oil price increases will come to us and the VAT (expanded value-added tax) will become effective."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon cautioned Ms Arroyo's allies in Congress against celebrating early.

"The public's judgment has yet to come," he said. "The public was given a glimpse of what probably is the truth, but Congress failed to provide a conclusive resolution to the issues..."

But Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ms Arroyo's staunch ally, urged the proimpeachment lawmakers to accept defeat with grace.

"It's an equally attractive virtue of the opposition to be gracious in defeat ... at least to indicate they're willing to obey the decision of the House. After all, this is the decision of the people," she said.

At the same time, Santiago said, this would be a good time for the President to reiterate her invitation to the opposition to join her Cabinet.

Reconciliation

Asked how the President intended to go about her reconciliation offer to the opposition, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "I don't think there will be any recriminations. The President is open to reconciliation on a principled basis."

Bunye said the House vote showed the "will" and "voice" of the people. "And as we say, the voice of the people is the voice of God," he said.

For Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao, the House vote was "a shining moment for Congress: reason over rabble rousing, sobriety over sophistry."

"If our congressmen can channel the passion and energy they displayed in this episode, we can become a developed country in our lifetime," he said.

Bunye also told reporters that while there was no "100-percent acceptance" of the committee report, the vote would "tone down the political noise."

He did not comment on claims by the opposition that the marathon session merely proved that the House majority voted for Ms Arroyo's political survival.

Bunye said that when the President agreed that the allegations against her should be brought to Congress, "she only expected that the [impeachment] process would be strictly observed and that the voting would be free."

"And that is what happened," he said. "The House committee on justice gave everybody a fair chance to ventilate their opinion on the matter. We are quite satisfied with the results and the process. We all saw how the lawmakers worked hard and how long they went without sleep discussing the matter." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

As nation sleeps, 'over' debate keeps House awake

From page A1

stood up and interpellated Rep. Luis Villafuerte, a member of the House justice committee. Their exchange lasted until 3:35 a.m.

At one point, after presiding officer Rep. Raul del Mar chided the two lawmakers for talking at the same time, Cayetano proposed a familiar two-way radio protocol. Let's say "over" when we're done talking, he suggested.

Villafuerte immediately got into the spirit of things.

Answering the next question from Cayetano, he said, to laughter from the audience: "*Hindi po.* Over."

Cayetano was equally game. Questioning a portion in the justice committee's report which said that President Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing to do with the Naia 3 and Northrail controversies, Cayetano said in Filipino: "Where did that decision come from? Over."

And so the exchange went, over and over.

"Over *naman yan*," an observer in the gallery commented, using showbiz-inspired slang for something exaggerated.

Idol talk

Following up on Minority Leader Francis Escudero's earlier remarks about the supposedly "rush-job" nature of the justice committee's report, Cayetano teased Villafuerte about the inadvertently comic use of a legal term.

What does "this instant committee report" mean? he asked. Does it mean the report was put together instantly, "like instant coffee?"

A testy Villafuerte replied: "Are you a lawyer?" He then explained that "instant" was lawyer talk for matters at hand. Cayetano took offense at what he said was Villafuerte's condescending tone, but said, with some sarcasm, that he still looked up to the Camarines Sur congressman as his "idol."

Villafuerte responded with a smile: Please stop calling me "idol." If you call me "idol" one more time, "*pipirma na ako.*" [I'm going to sign that amended complaint.]

Without missing a beat, Cayetano launched into his next question. "*Alam niyo*, idol [You know what, idol] ..."

No miracle came

Of the senior lawmakers who took turns presiding it was Cebu's Raul del Mar who displayed the surest touch.

Toward midnight, he tangled with Rep. Ding Roman, an administration congressman who eventually voted for impeachment.

To get the attention of the chair, Roman, standing behind the hall's leftmost lectern, all but shouted at Del Mar.

Del Mar coolly responded: "You are certainly going to be recognized, Honorable Roman, but give the [chair] time to recognize you."

Earlier in the day, an upbeat Roman was overheard talking to some friends in the gallery. "It's reachable," he said, apparently referring to the 79 signatures the proimpeachment congressmen needed to keep the case alive. "It may be a miracle, but it's reachable."

The House leadership knew a trick or two on how to muffle the so-called young guns of the opposition.

When Cayetano started an audio-visual presentation (with Rep. Joel Villanueva at the controls of the laptop computer), he got everyone looking in one direction.

To some in the gallery, the presentation was somewhat bizarre, at least in the context of what congressmen were wont to call the "august" session hall: It featured trance music in the background, with snippets of conversations from the alleged Garcillano wiretaps mixed in.

It was at that moment that Speaker Jose de Venecia and Majority Leader Prospero Nograles chose to pay their respects to the country's most famous widows: Former President Corazon Aquino and opposition icon Susan Roces, who were sitting in the first row of the VIP gallery.

People looked in their direction and the cameras swung away from the young guns to the old pros.

Privilege hour runs 5 hours

A spectator said aloud: "*Ang galing talaga ni* De Venecia."

All the while, congressional pages in their cream-colored, long-sleeved shirts and dark ties scurried about the hall, busy with all sorts of errands.

The privilege hour, the Monday tradition that allows any congressman to speak on any topic, started at about 5:07 p.m. It was extended for another hour at 6:37 p.m.

An hour later, Senior Deputy Majority Leader Art Defensor asked for another extension.

For how long? Presiding officer Rep. Emilio Espinosa asked.

"For one more hour," Defensor said.

"One hour?!" an incredulous Espinosa responded.

The privilege hour kept being extended, by 15-minute and 10-minute increments, until it was extended—for the last time—at 9:44 p.m. for "three minutes."

By the time the last congressman to avail himself of the privilege ended his speech, the privilege hour had lasted almost five hours.

Escudero without notes

It was, Defensor said, "the longest privilege hour in the history of the House."

Rep. Rodante Marcoleta kicked it off with a blistering attack on Hyatt 10 leader Dinky Soliman, who was seated beside Aquino. He reaped a bitter harvest: Opposition Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, he with the booming voice, assailed Marcoleta. "No personal attacks!" Plaza shouted.

Many other representatives took advantage of the congressional privilege. Easily the most listened to was Escudero, who spoke—without notes—for about 25 minutes.

Almost all of the congressmen turned their seats to face him and listen.

Pass the popcorn

At the other side of the plenary hall, administration lawmakers munched on candies and popcorn to keep themselves awake.

Negros Occidental Rep. Iggy Arroyo, the President's in-law, had a pack of popcorn on his table which he shared with his colleagues.

At the gallery, Lupita Kashiwahara, the President's image-maker, knitted a scarf while listening to the debates, complaining that they sometimes turned "ridiculous."

Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Kashiwahara's nephew but a leading supporter of Ms Arroyo's impeachment, slipped into the gallery—a no eating zone—some chips for her (Kashiwahara) and her female companion.

The roll call voting began at around 3:50 a.m. when La Union Rep. Manuel Ortega filed a motion to start since the debates had been going on for hours.

Defensor seconded the motion. He had taken over from Nograles, whose voice was already hoarse.

Each lawmaker had three minutes to explain his vote and when they exceeded their time, Kashiwahara's companion would raise her arm in protest, her fingers indicating how many minutes that lawmaker had been talking.

Many of those in the gallery fell asleep, pulling shawls over themselves, but many were also awakened by South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio's impassioned explanation of her "no" vote.

"Mr. Speaker, do you feel our pain?" Custodio asked, complaining of political compromises and what she said was a growing hopelessness in the country.

Many in the minority were also angry with some of their colleagues who had signed the complaint but were absent during the voting.

They noted that Davao City Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez's brother had died but he was still present. Marinduque Rep. Edmundo Reyes Jr.'s daughter was also in an intensive care unit because she had been born prematurely but Reyes attended the proceedings.

Like a nightmare

As the proceedings dragged on, one security guard took it upon himself to protect the integrity of the session by waking up dozing spectators.

"*Yung mga nakatulog, pakigising lang* [Those who've fallen asleep, please wake up]," he said over and over. "*Baka bangungutin* [They might die in their sleep.]"

On the floor of the session hall, the nation's long impeachment nightmare lurched on well into the night.

Former TMG chief in car theft raps turns tables on accusers

By Luige A.
del Puerto

FIVE YEARS AFTER he was arrested and accused of driving a stolen car, a former traffic management official of the Philippine National Police yesterday said he was finally vindicated and could now retire in peace.

Senior Supt. Norberto Manaog, who headed the PNP-Traffic Management Group in the mid-1990s, was accused by three police officers of driving a stolen vehicle in Las Piñas City in September 2000.

The PNP internal affairs office suspended for grave misconduct the three police officers who accused Manaog, records showed.

In July 2005, PNP chief Director General Arturo Lomibao affirmed the decision to suspend Senior Insp. Jesus Kabigting, PO3 Ernesto Orata and PO2 Dennis Fadol for six months, starting Aug. 16.

Salary deduction

The PNP legal service also recommended a deduction of 180 days worth of salaries and allowances from the retirement benefits of Supt. Wilbur Naldo, the officers' then immediate officer.

Manaog said the three policemen, who were members of the PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group at the time, stopped him on the Alabang-Zapote Road and brought him to a local police station, saying that he was driving a stolen car. He said he was with his family when he was arrested.

The officers also arrested for illegal possession of firearms SPO3 Edgardo Lerit, Manaog's driver.

During the investigation, the officers said that they were simply doing their job. They said they were dispatched to the area to look for a Tamaraw FX with a blinker, a violation of traffic rules. They found and stopped the vehicle, and claimed to have seen a handgun inside.

Lack of evidence

The officers said Manaog tried to interfere when they tried to arrest Lerit, so they arrested him for obstruction of justice. They also accused Manaog of car theft.

The fiscal's office and the National Police Commission later dropped the cases against Manaog and Lerit after the officers failed to produce evidence.

Humiliated by the experience, Manaog sued Kabigting, Orata and Fadol for grave misconduct. In August 2004, IAS Inspector General Alexis Canonizado found the three guilty and suspended them for 180 days without pay, an order that was later affirmed by Lomibao.

"I feel vindicated. Imagine the humiliation of being accused [of driving a stolen car] when I was a former chief of the PNP-TMG," he said.

"Now I can retire in peace," said Manaog.

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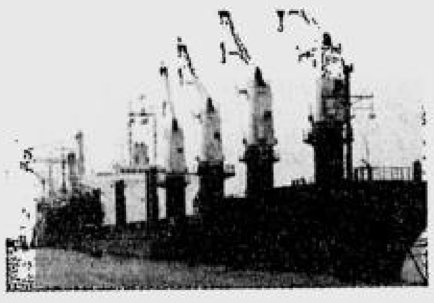

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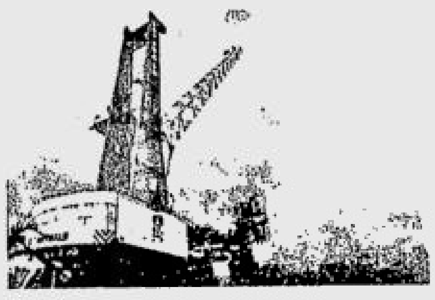

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Church stand on GMA not likely to change

From page A1

her 4-year-old presidency.

"It has never been done before," said Capalla, outgoing president of the 85-member Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The CBCP's permanent council, the bishops' policy making body, is to meet on Sept. 13 to discuss the junking of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo and its implications on the political landscape.

The council has 12 members, including incoming CBCP president Angel Lagdameo, a supporter of the impeachment case against the President that was killed in the house plenary yesterday.

In its July 10 statement, the CBCP said the bishops were not demanding Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"Yet neither do we encourage her simply to dismiss such a call from others. For we recognize that nonviolent appeals for her resignation, the demand for a truth commission and the filing of an impeachment case are not against the Gospel," it said.

No truth commission

Proposals for a truth commission have not panned out.

Ms Arroyo has brushed aside demands for her ouster over allegations she stole last year's elections and her family received illegal gambling payoffs. She has said she won the balloting "fair and square."

Asked if lawmakers were heeding the CBCP call, Capalla said: "By their actuations, you would know that they were not following the principles."

But he said there was no chance that the CBCP would turn back on its July statement during the council's meeting next week. He said to think that the bishops would do so would be an affront to their collective wisdom.

"That is so unfair," Capalla said. "It means that the bishops are stupid, that they can insult themselves by changing a statement like that."

He said individual bishops might issue clarifications, noting that it was difficult to distill their ideas in a three-page document. He said he was now halfway in completing a primer on the CBCP position.

Begin reconciliation

Capalla urged politicians and religious leaders to begin the process of reconciliation, starting with restoring "true friendship" among them. "True friendship is what this country needs urgently," he said at the opening of the National Summit of Religious Leaders in Cebu City yesterday.

"Our country today is rocked by warring factions who are full of hatred for one another. There is a lot of unpeace, social unrest and political turmoil because friendship has been broken."

Capalla added that "our people in government, society, economics, politics and culture cannot work effectively together because true friendship has been lost."

The Davao archbishop also referred to questions about the Church receiving money from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) to fund projects for the poor.

Capalla said bishops should continue to use Pagcor proceeds only in response to the "urgent need of the poor." He said it was up to the individual bishops to determine which Church programs for the poor would fall under the condition.

"In extreme cases, everything is free," he said, citing a principle in moral theology. "It has to be a very, very critical condition."

Capalla said he usually used Pagcor donations for the hospitalization of the poorest residents in his archdiocese and those dying of hunger.

He said Pagcor money also came during a calamity.

CBCP stand on gambling

Capalla said he personally did not consider as urgent the construction of seminaries and orphanages or assistance for scholarship programs. Other bishops could deem these projects as top priority, he said.

The CBCP stated in January 2004 that it would "refrain from soliciting or receiving funds from illegal and legal gambling so as not to promote a culture of gambling."

It also vowed to encourage Church personnel and institutions to refrain from tapping this source of financial aid.

Capalla told reporters in Cebu that the CBCP stand on gambling remained valid. He said that since its issuance, Pagcor funding had been coursed directly to beneficiaries, such as schools and charitable institutions.

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman sparked the controversy involving the Church and Pagcor when she charged last week that Ms Arroyo had refused to sack Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino because "he took care of the media and bishops." *With reports from Blanche S. Rivera and Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Anti-GMA protesters use recycled posters

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TALK ABOUT AUSTERITY MEASURES. Militant groups again showed up at the anti-Arroyo protest yesterday bringing with them recycled posters—those they had used in earlier fragmented rallies against the President.

The old posters, which read, "GMA Resign!" or "*Itayo ang* (Establish the) Transition Council!" were used in recent mass actions, some of which had mobilized bigger crowds than yesterday's, but still failed to oust Ms Arroyo.

"This time, we did not spend much on our streamers. Many of them had been used before," a Sanlakas coordinator told the INQUIRER.

Still, most groups showed up with new posters and many were hung from the foot bridge in front of St. Peter Church, fighting for attention.

Expecting that the impeachment complaint would be quashed in the House, militant groups had dropped the word "impeach" from their protest streamers. Instead, the anti-Arroyo posters used the words "resign" and "oust."

"We're running out of options. Either she resigns or we continue our efforts to oust her," Bayan Muna spokesperson Renato Reyes said.

The groups, however, still printed new leaflets which they distributed to drivers of passing vehicles.

Just like in other rallies, organizers provided free food to their members who showed up. These were distributed in styro plates, with plastic spoons and forks.

But members of the Community Organizer Multi-Diversity from Rodriguez, Rizal, who arrived in six jeeps, got their free lunch of rice and a tiny *longganisa* packed in transparent plastic bags, without spoons or forks.

Growing poverty also forced Beth, 32, to show up at the rally yesterday with her four-month-old baby.

"*Wala kasing mag-aalaga sa kanya* (No one will take care of him)," Beth said, referring to her son Maki.

Her husband did not join the rally because he had to work. Beth used to be a sewer in a factory, but she lost her job last year.

She said she was clueless about the process of impeachment. But she wanted Ms Arroyo out of Malacañang.

"*Naniniwala akong nandaya siya* (I believe she cheated)," Beth said.

She voted for actor Fernando Poe Jr., she added with a smile.

RP Everest team scales peak

From page A1

hayangan, Ariel Ambayec, Erwin Emata and physician Ted Esguerra. Dayondon was reported to be the first Filipino to scale such a height.

The press release said the assault on Muztagh Ata was in preparation for an attempt in 2007 on Mt. Everest, at 8,850 meters (29,035 feet) the world's highest peak.

"Despite the extreme weather conditions, the howling winds and the bitter cold, the team still showed determination in reaching the summit. It was worth all the effort as the Philippine flag was waved with all pride at the apex of Mt. Mustagh Ata," said expedition leader Art Valdez.

Within a little more than a year of its formation, the team had already scaled Kiyonang Peak of India and New Zealand's Mt. Aylmer.

Apart from learning effective anchoring systems, rope techniques and how to create snow caves, the team has also learned how to scale mountains with very minimal equipment.

"The team has become more confident as the skills level is honed. Filipinos can be very capable climbers when given the opportunity and proper training," said Valdez.

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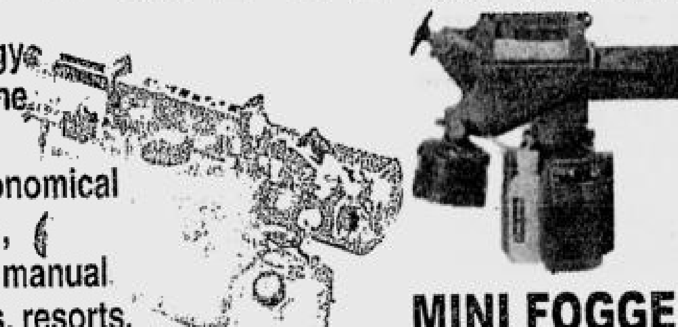

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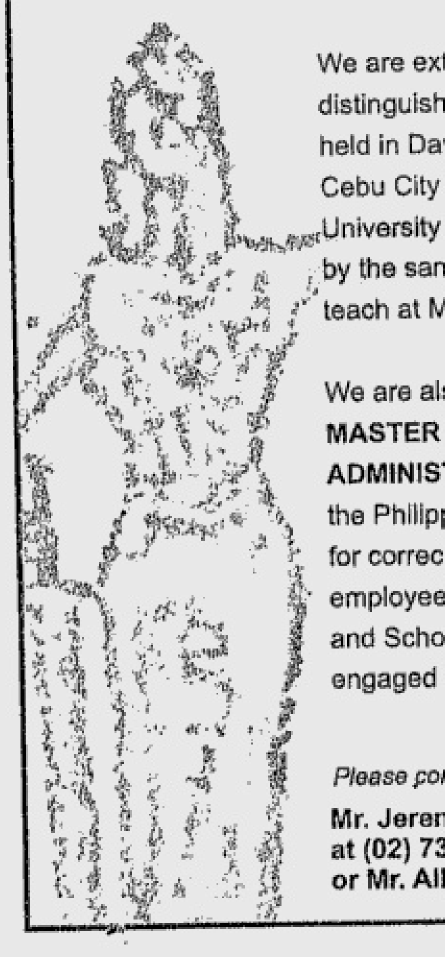

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Coming: Condoms at work

WORKERS WILL soon be receiving contraceptives right inside their offices, courtesy of employers who have teamed up with the United Nations Population Fund and the Population Commission to promote family planning and reproductive health in the workplace.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Rene Soriano yesterday said 10 of the country's biggest national companies have already subscribed to the organization's newly-launched program, Workplace-Oriented Reproductive Health Knowledge and Services, or Works.

"We will distribute to them all the medically and legally safe contraceptives as well as educate them on family planning, maternal and child care and reproductive health," Soriano told reporters in a press conference in Manila.

Soriano said Works expected at least 15 companies to join every year. He said even trade unions were enthusiastic about the program.

Soriano said Ecop did not consult the Church because it would surely give the program "a knockout punch." *Jerome Aning*

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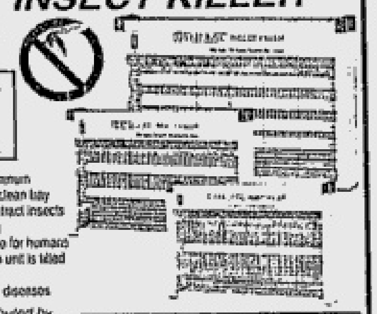

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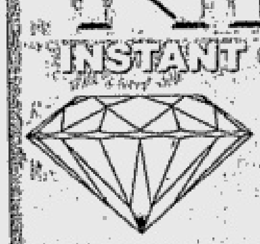

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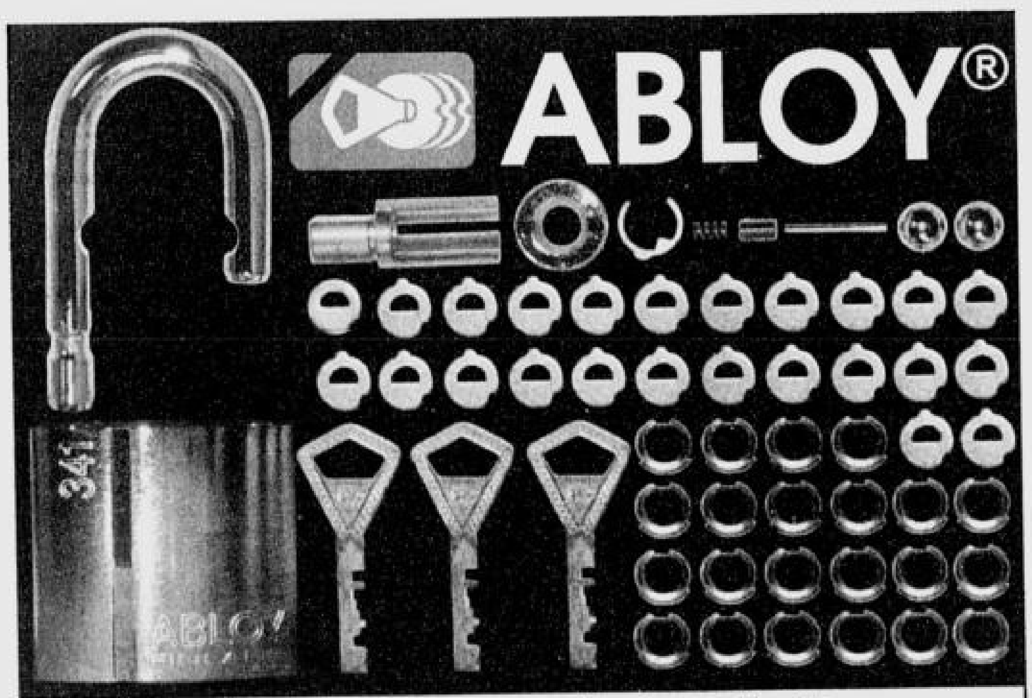

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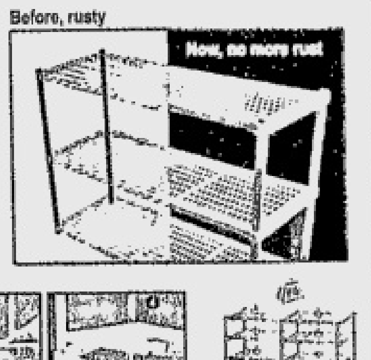

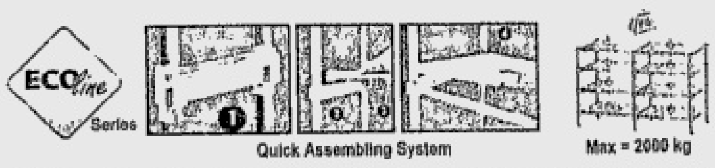

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Katrina death toll may hit 10,000

NEW ORLEANS—VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA returned to pick through their battered homes on Monday and President George W. Bush promised to fix bungled rescue efforts after a disaster in which the mayor of New Orleans said as many as 10,000 may have died.

Rescuers in boats, helicopters and military vehicles went house to house looking for stranded survivors of one of the worst natural disasters to hit the United States.

A full week after Katrina crashed into the US Gulf coast and ravaged one of America's most popular cities, the home of jazz and Mardi Gras, no one knows how many people perished.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said "it wouldn't be unreasonable" for the death toll to rise to 10,000, although he admitted he had no idea of the exact number.

While authorities allowed people to temporarily return to their homes in areas outside New Orleans, police pleaded with people who have not yet abandoned the city itself to get out. "There are no jobs. There are no homes to go to, no hotels to go to, there is absolutely nothing here," Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley said. "We advise people that this city has been destroyed, it has completely been destroyed." Forensic experts prepared a warehouse for identifying victims when they are finally recovered.

Some are not hard to find as swollen bodies float in the streets but officials fear thousands more are hidden in homes across New Orleans.

In suburban Jefferson Parish, stunned residents got a first look at Katrina's damage to their homes when it struck with 225 kph winds. They were greeted by a panorama of toppled trees and street signs, and spacious middle-class homes that had been flooded with several feet of water.

"I try to be upbeat but it's devastating. I may lose my house because I may not be able to make my payments, and I don't know when I'm going to work again," said Mark Becker, 48, at his Metairie home. Storm winds had ripped two holes in his roof and caused the ceiling to collapse in a bedroom and kitchen.

Others said the damage could have been worse. They said their homes were mostly intact and salvageable.

The US Army Corps of Engineers began pumping water from the flooded city after closing a major gap in the levees. *Reuters*

A COUPLE cries after returning to find their

Annan laments UN role in scandal

LONDON—UN CHIEF Kofi Annan said he wished the United Nations had never been asked to take part in Iraq's oil-for-food program as he braced himself for the results of the most detailed report yet into the scandal.

In an interview with the BBC on Monday night, the secretary general also expressed regret at a host of amendments made by the United States to a UN reform package to be discussed at a world summit in New York next week.

The oil-for-food controversy is resurfacing at a bad time for Annan, who is due to host the UN gathering of world leaders from Sept. 14-16.

"I am braced and we are all ready," Annan said about the publication of the lengthy report by an independent panel led by former US Federal Reserve chair Paul Volcker. It will be the fourth study so far on the 64-billion-dollar program, which has tarnished the image of the United Nations.

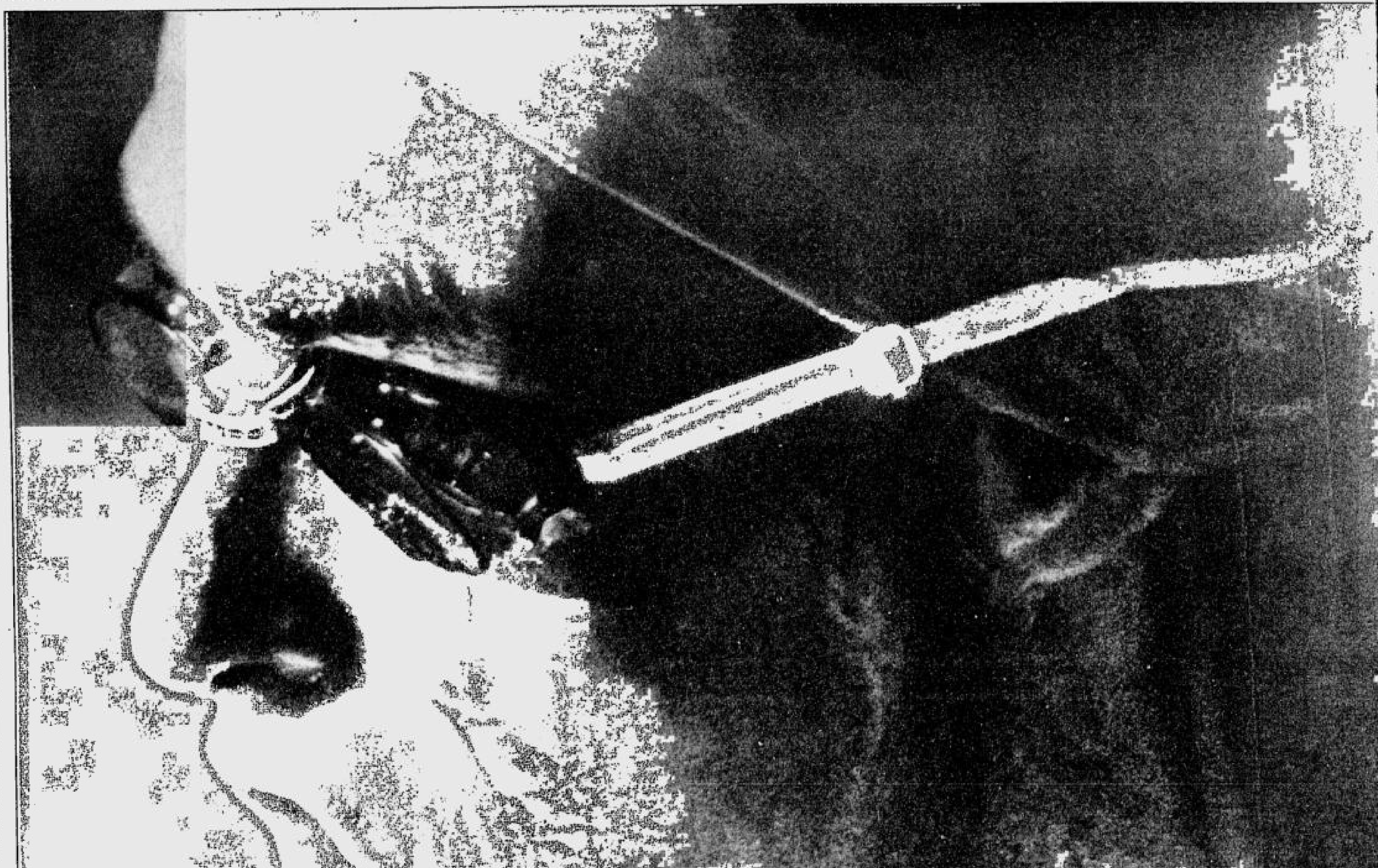
"I suspect there will be lots of criticism," Annan told the BBC during a brief trip to London to attend an AIDS confab. *AFP*

Iraq ministry attacked

BAGHDAD—UP TO 30 gunmen in 10 cars fired on Iraq's interior ministry at dawn on Monday, killing two police and wounding five, ministry sources said, in what appeared a carefully coordinated attack on a sensitive target.

The attack came as campaigning was getting under way for a referendum due by Oct. 15 on a contentious new constitution for the post-Saddam Hussein era, and ahead of the trial of Saddam himself, now confirmed for Oct. 19.

An Interior Ministry source told Reuters that the gunmen had used rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and automatic rifles in the attack at 6:15 a.m. (0215 GMT). The Iraqi wing of al-Qaida said it had launched the attack on the interior ministry. "Your brothers set off from five directions and used a variety of weapons to launch a blessed raid on the interior ministry building, killing everyone inside," the al-Qaida Organization in Iraq said in a statement. *Reuters*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Indonesia probes plane crash

home and business destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. AFP

MEDAN, INDONESIA—WEEPING RESIDENTS of Indonesia's third-biggest city picked through the charred rubble of their homes on Tuesday a day after a domestic airliner slammed into a local neighborhood, killing 149 people.

Police watching over the wreckage of Mandala Airlines flight RI 091 said its black box had been found late on Monday night and sent for analysis by investigators looking into the cause of the disaster.

The crash, just seconds after take-off from Medan City's Polonia airport on Sumatra island, killed 102 people aboard and 47 others in an inferno on the ground.

Dozens of soldiers combed the crash site for human remains at dawn and a strong smell of burning hung in the air. A Reuters reporter at the scene saw several body parts collected by troops.

Miraculously, 15 passengers in the tail section of the Boeing 737-200, including a toddler under the age of two, survived the crash and were being treated at a nearby hospital.

"At first I heard a bang. Then I looked up (to the ceiling) and there were balls of fire and then my son and daughter-in-law came to get me," said Mariam, a 73-year-old grandmother, sitting in the blackened wreckage of her former home.

"We all ran from the back of the house." Around her, at least a dozen destroyed homes could be seen.

Officials have said some 20 homes were damaged by fire.

"We didn't hear any noise of a plane. All we heard was boom, boom and we just ran," said Mariam's daughter-in-law, Nurlaela.

The plane was carrying 112 passengers and five crew on a flight to the Indonesian capital, Jakarta.

Survivors said the plane started to shake heavily after take off, and failed to clear landing system instruments at the end of the runway.

The aircraft clipped a river bank, swerved right and then ploughed into homes bordering one of the city's busiest roads and burst into flames.

Following the crash President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono ordered an investigation headed by the transportation minister into aviation safety standards, the Jakarta Post newspaper said.

Yudhoyono plans to visit Medan on Tuesday for a first-hand look at the scene.

The crash is the second in Indonesia by a domestic carrier in less than a year. On Nov. 30, 2004, a Lion Air MD-82 plane carrying 146 passengers and seven crew skidded off a rain-slicked runway at Solo in central Java, killing 31 people and injuring dozens more.

Soaring fuel prices have hit the country's airlines hard, putting some smaller carriers out of business and forcing others to cut services.

Mandala director Asril Tanjung has said the cause of the crash was being investigated, but foul play was highly unlikely.

Officials have said technical problems and pilot error were among the possible causes being investigated. The aircraft in Monday's accident had been built in 1981, and was fit for eight more years of flying, according to the airline.

Mandala Airlines is one of Indonesia's oldest private carriers, operating a number of Boeing 737s. It competes in a crowded market since the establishment of numerous budget airlines in the past five years.

Medan, 1,425 km northwest of Jakarta, is the main gateway for aid into tsunami-hit Aceh province, and its airport is one of Indonesia's busiest.

Indonesia's worst air crash occurred in September 1997, when a Garuda Airbus A-300B4 crashed in a mountainous area near Medan, killing all 222 passengers and 12 crew.

Reuters

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Theatre blaze

CAIRO—At least 30 people were killed and a further 45 injured when fire broke out in a crowded theatre in the town of Beni Suef, south of Cairo, late Monday, a police source said. The fire, the origin of which was not immediately known, occurred during a play performed in front of a crowd of a thousand theatre-goers in the town some 150 km south of the Egyptian capital. The stage curtains caught fire at around 11:30 p.m. (2030 GMT) provoking panic among the crowd as they attempted to escape the blaze, with many of the victims believed to have been trampled underfoot. The fire is believed to have been started accidentally by actors carrying lighted candles.. *AFP*

Bush picks Roberts

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush nominated conservative appeals court judge John Roberts on Monday to replace the late William Rehnquist as Supreme Court chief justice. US Senate leaders agreed to delay the start of confirmation hearings for Roberts until at least Thursday and no later than next Monday, out of respect for Rehnquist. "Judge Roberts has earned the nation's confidence, and I'm pleased to announce that I will nominate him to serve as the 17th chief justice of the Supreme Court," Bush said. The choice was to a certain degree a sentimental one, given that Roberts was once a law clerk for Rehnquist, who died on Saturday of thyroid cancer. *Reuters*

Freak accident

VIENNA—Nine people were killed and four were critically injured Monday when a helicopter accidentally dropped a large container transporting concrete onto a cable car, sending it crashing into a mountain in the Austrian Alps, police said. "The toll is nine dead and seven people seriously injured, four who are in critical condition," police spokesman Ewald Barth told AFP. The dead were six children and three adults, all of them Germans, the Austrian news agency APA said, citing police sources. The accident involved two other cable cars besides the one that was hit directly, according to Jakob Falkner, the director of the cable car operating company. The container fell directly onto one car, killing three of the five people in it. But it also shook the car just ahead of it, causing six of the eight occupants to fall out of the car to their deaths. *AFP*

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005
ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 20 No. 271

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• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Slow burn

EDITORIAL

EVEN THOUGH THE VOTING CONCLUDED MUCH later yesterday, history will record that the fateful move to approve the House of Representatives' justice committee report throwing out the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was made at 3:37 a.m. At about a similar hour, the move to proclaim Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the elected President of the Philippines was also made last year.

It may be clever in terms of parliamentary strategy to do such things in the dead of night, but it sends a grim message to a public that equates the light of day with fearlessness and the courage of convictions. The President won, then; she has won now. But again we ask, victory at what price?

The price was shutting off the only means for an institutional inquiry into the serious charges leveled against the President. The proponents of impeachment who issued a statement last Monday, under a fragile alliance called Bukluran para sa Katotohanan, proved prophetic: "We all seek the truth. We want the truth to come out. And yet every means for seeking the truth has been frustrated; every avenue for arriving at the truth has been blocked; and every opportunity to find the truth is being closed." The House majority moved heaven and earth to ensure that any popular protest would face a fait accompli.

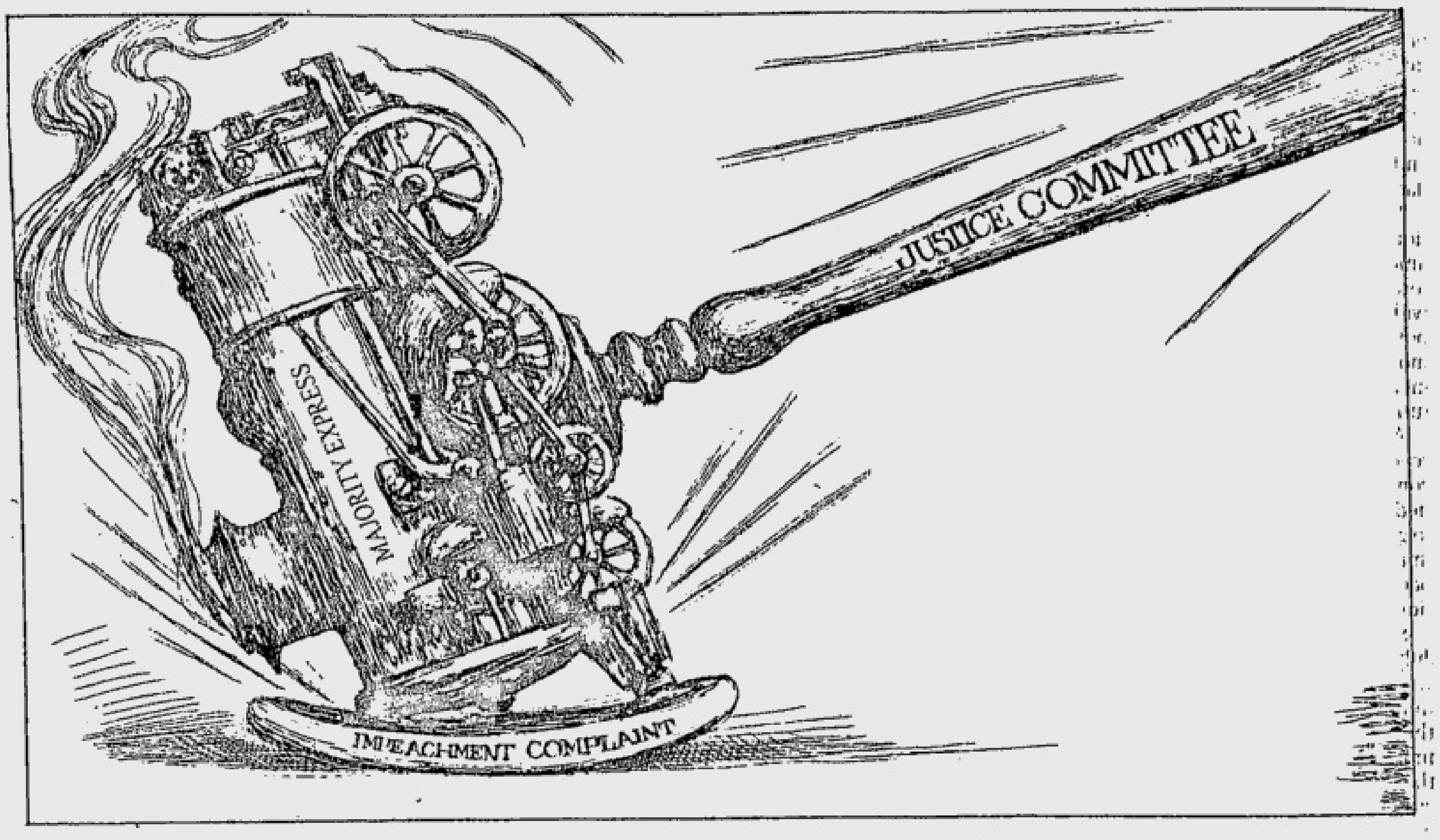
The President employed every means at her disposal to secure the vote she needed, including the power to appoint. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism revealed appointments benefiting the families of prominent anti-impeachment personalities in both houses of Congress. To name just a few: Nelly Favis-Villafuerte, wife of Rep. Luis Villafuerte, was sworn in as member of the Monetary Board on July 4; Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan, cousin of Rep. Simeon Datumanong, was appointed to the National Anti-Poverty Commission on July 14; Armand Arreza, cousin of Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (and a protégé of Sen. Richard Gordon), has been named administrator of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority; and Nenalyn Santiago, sister of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was appointed commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education last Aug. 1.

There have been suggestions that pro-impeachment personalities were approached as well. Rep. Alfonso Umali Jr. says the appointment of his brother as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs was offered if he withdrew support for impeachment. Rep. Reynaldo Uy is said to have recounted to Liberal Party members a meeting where the President showed him a piece of paper ordering the transfer of Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan, former head of the 8th Infantry Division based in Catbalogan, Western Samar, to Nueva Ecija.

If Ms Arroyo can't be begrudged for doing things that would help her keep the presidency, then the public should not be begrudged for looking closely henceforth to see if other blessings will start flowing to anti-impeachment congressmen. Will their districts suddenly get millions in additional pork-barrel funds like some of their colleagues allegedly did earlier? Will disgraced former President Joseph Estrada suddenly end up back in his San Juan home? What other political accommodations will we see?

When Pichay told his colleagues that "we must bury this six feet under the ground... in order to unite," his puzzled countrymen, though perhaps not his constituents, might have been tempted to ask: What sort of unity is there in a congressionally sanctioned burial? Party unity, presumably, but certainly not a unity of intent between the congressmen and their constituents, whom they claimed to have consulted. For if the President's defenders pointed to surveys as proof of her undeniable victory, then they must also admit that recent surveys prove not only the President's indubitably deep unpopularity but also the overwhelming desire (80 percent in Metro Manila and 60 percent nationwide) that she be subjected to an impeachment trial. Something in the communication between congressmen and their constituencies must have been lost in translation. Could it be that the survey numbers had far fewer zeroes than the checks they anticipate to be released soon? How else explain their willful—and insolent—refusal to heed public opinion?

As the French general said of the charge of the Light Brigade, "It is magnificent, but it is not war." For the majority, yesterday saw a magnificent display of party discipline, but it was not statesmanship. What their vote may have done was to set off a slow burn in our national life. The avenues to constitutionally resolve the crisis of legitimacy have been barricaded. And the barricades are manned by the members of the House.



Will the nation ever know the truth?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT WAS A CHANCE FOR CONGRESSMEN TO be great, but they chose to be greedy instead. They could have opted for the truth that the nation has been asking, ended the uncertainty and disbelief of an entire nation, but they chose money instead like true mercenaries.

In the lowest point of the history of the House of Representatives, gleeful and gloating congressmen like true movie villains murdered the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo. It did it in record time, too, like an express train. While Congress always took many months, sometimes going beyond the deadline, to do its most important function—the enactment of a budget—it took only a couple of days to permanently kill the impeachment complaint. The House had 60 days to decide whether or not to impeach the President. It had used up only 14 of those 60 days. It had 46 days left. Yet it rushed the voting on such an important undertaking, working the whole night straight to the morning after to hammer the last nail on the coffin of democracy in the Philippines.

What was the hurry? The President is going to the United Nations and she wants to be able to boast there that there is no more impeachment threat hanging over her head. Never mind if her constituents back home hate her so much they wish she wouldn't come back anymore, how she looks like to foreigners is more important to her.

So the marching orders to her mercenaries in the House was to kill the impeachment case before her trip, perhaps with a bonus if they did it in record time.

So the Filipino nation will never know the truth. Who is its rightful president? Who won in the last presidential elections, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo or Fernando Poe Jr.? Did GMA cheat? Is she a usurper and an impostor?

The nation would have been better served had the representatives of the people, who had overwhelmingly expressed their opinion in surveys that they want to know the truth, sent the case to the Senate for trial. After all, impeaching the President doesn't mean she would be ousted. It would merely allow both sides to present their evidence so that the Senate can judge it fairly. GMA will be given her day in court as she wants.

"Impeach me! Give me my day in court so I can defend myself. Follow the rule of law," she challenged the opposition. Then she can prove her innocence, that she won "fair and square" as she claims. And that's what the opposition tried to do: impeach her, follow the rule of law.

But instead of seeking the truth, the House decided to kill the complaint so no evidence could be presented. The people will now be forever in doubt. Are we being ruled by a pretender? Do we have a fake president?

Does GMA really want to be impeached so she can defend herself? I don't think so. I think her dare to the opposition to impeach her is just one more lie, like the many others before it. I think she is really afraid to let the evidence come out.

Why has she not bothered to answer the charges against her, to enlighten her people? Why has she chosen to remain silent instead all this time? Why is she afraid of the truth?

Silence is the refuge of the guilty.

* * *

The current controversy between the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) and the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) is caused by politics, not sports. It is caused by *amor propio*, that very destructive Filipino vice, too much pride. The POC refuses to reinstate the BAP despite the refusal of the Federation of International Basketball Associations (Fiba) to accept the POC's preferred basketball league, the Philippine Basketball Federation Inc. (PBFI), and continue to recognize the BAP. Without Fiba recognition, the PBFI cannot compete in the coming SEA Games or any other international tournament. And unless the BAP is reinstated by the POC, it cannot participate, either.

In its letter to the POC, Fiba concluded that the BAP's expulsion was maneuvered by the POC.

"Fiba's current conclusion," Patrick Baumann, Fiba secretary general, said in his letter, "is that the expulsion is inappropriate and out of proportion. In particular, it is not understandable why the new leadership of BAP in the person of its president, Mr. (Joey) Lina, was not given sufficient time to adjust to the POC requirements after the suspension. In fact, the sequence of events rather demonstrates that the suspension was a maneuver to reach the expulsion of the BAP and the integration of the opposing personalities under the PBFI.

"Fiba's opinion is that it is inappropriate to use basketball as a sport-political game between opposing sides. As a consequence, Fiba cannot accept the POC's decision to remove one group in favor of another one.

"Therefore, a permanent solution cannot be found by forcing the recognition of the PBFI through Fiba. A satisfactory solution can only be the result of a domestic process where all basketball leaders participate, including BAP, PBA—who have already a standing memorandum of agreement with BAP—and all others that you have mentioned as stakeholders in our sport...

"As long as such unity is not demonstrated and guaranteed by all stakeholders to Fiba, Fiba will continue recognizing the BAP as its regularly affiliated member but also maintain the suspension from all official international competitions."

Murder in the Batasan

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WAS AT THE BATASAN MONDAY NIGHT, hoping the deliberations on something so vital might echo the quality of the debate by the British Parliament some years ago on joining the war on Iraq. That debate was also a foregone conclusion—Tony Blair was determined to be the "English poodle," their version of *tuta*, making dogs the most maligned animal on earth—but it drew forth some of the most moving speeches and sharpest exchanges I've heard. Much of it from the late Robin Cook, who rose to eloquent heights in damning the iniquity.

Alas, I found the Batasan version only a cure for insomniacs. I wondered if ANC was doing the country a favor by airing it in full: It offered prospective exiles yet another reason for leaving the country. To say that the Batasan floor looked like an unruly classroom is to insult unruly classrooms. While the (largely) pro-impeachment representatives delivered their privilege speeches, begging their colleagues heed the voice of history, their colleagues chatted loudly on cell phones, guffawed at their jokes, or greeted friends in the gallery. Unfortunately, I couldn't always say I blamed them. If the voice of history sounded anything like the speeches I heard, I too would be lulled to sleep. Maybe that's why we are.

Things took a more lively turn only past the witching hour, and I at least had the consolation of seeing the pro-GMA congressmen, who seemed to have imagined they'd have a walk in the park, punished by being made to stay in the session hall longer than they expected. I have to thank Francis Escudero and Alan Peter Cayetano for that. They are two very fine young men who did a magnificent job in showing up the irony in the title "justice committee" and the phrase "rule of law." It was a justice committee that was resolved to wreak injustice and it was a rule of law that was committed to mob rule.

I can only hope neither of them abandons the capacity for idealism that goes with their so obvious gifts of articulation. I say this because I've seen so many people, young and old, use their talents to defend freedom one day and uphold oppression the next. In this country, the only thing more fickle than the weather is principle.

Escudero it is to whom we owe the contemplated iniquity being pushed back by several hours. Enough for the public who was watching TV at least, if not most of his colleagues who were watching only their backs, to know a battle between good and evil had taken place that night, and that though evil had won the battle then, good might still win the war tomorrow. It was Escudero who showed how the justice committee had conspired to withhold from the pro-impeachment representatives copies of what they were supposed to vote for until later that day. In the end, Simeon Datumanong, Luis Villafuerte and Edcel Lagman agreed to blame the committee staff for the lapse, a breathtaking lie that reminded the world of the same kind of breathtaking lie they were sworn to protect. I don't know how the Moros felt about one of their own reinforcing the already horrible racial profiling of Moros and Muslims. I myself felt deeply ashamed about being a Bicolano.

The next day, Congress murdered the impeachment move. Everyone was predicting it, of course, last Monday night, those fighting for it being filled with a sense of heroic despair, or desperate heroism. A friend, however, put it this way: "It won't be a murder, it will be a massacre. After all, we're not just talking about one bill, we're talking about three bills."

The speeches of those who agreed to commit that murder merely echoed the propositions of the justice committee report. They spoke of the need for this country to respect the law and its democratic institutions. They spoke of the need for this country to attend to poverty and the matter of national survival. They spoke of the need for this country to unite behind their decision and move on.

This country doesn't just have a monumental capacity to use law to thwart justice, it has a monumental capacity to employ the loftiest thoughts to commit the lowliest deeds. They forgot that the most hallowed democratic institution is the vote and that respecting the rule of law at its most elementary level means not picking up the phone in the dead of night and saying "Hello Garci," particularly in a distinctively and unctuously grating voice. They forgot that candidates who rob the voters of their votes do not go on to rule wisely and well but merely go on to rob the people of their wealth. They forgot that there is no honor among thieves, no nation has ever yet united and moved forward on the basis of wrongdoing.

As it was, the move to impeach GMA was already a compromise, presuming as it did she was the president, albeit one who had betrayed the public trust. When by her own admission of having talked to "a Comelec official" while the counting was in progress (clue: he is nowhere to be found) she wasn't so by the very rule of law Congress has been pleased to invoke. If the move to impeach the President has served any useful purpose, it is only to show that, as in Marcos' time, the law that at least has to do with justice may no longer be expected from those who pass the law, who interpret the law, and who enforce the law. We have to go elsewhere to find it.

The murder in the cathedral of Thomas A Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, by the king's men made Becket an even bigger figure than he was, turning him into a veritable saint. The murder in the Batasan of the impeachment move by the Queen's men has made ousting a putative president even more necessary than it's been, turning it into a veritable imperative.

It's the rule of law as well that no one may get away with murder.

A judgment of guilt based on perception

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE DISMISSAL of the three impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo by the House committee on justice has rekindled the dying embers of the street-driven movement demanding her resignation.

Following the junking of the complaints, a broad coalition, calling itself Coalition for Truth, intensified street marches in an attempt to put pressure on the plenary of the House of Representatives that was in the midst of deciding what to do with the quashed complaints and whether to endorse any one of the complaints or a consolidated version to the Senate.

In a march to the Batasan yesterday, the coalition, led by former President Corazon Aquino, among others, tried to show it was not a spent force and was now gaining adherents among a wide assortment of organizations, with disparate political and ideological tendencies to back their move to oust Ms Arroyo, either through impeachment or other means, not excluding extra-constitutional means, such as another people power.

Aquino took pains to explain that the march of several thousands was "to show support" for the congressmen signing the complaint. The intensified street action appeared to have been intended to give heart to other congressmen to join the pro-impeachment movement whose fast track had been blocked by the numbers of the administration majority in the House.

Since the filing of the complaints in June and July, the opposition had encountered difficulty in winning the critical support that would bring the number of signatories to the 79 needed to send the case to the Senate. While the proponents of impeachment in the House have failed to collect the 79 signatures, they have succeeded in getting crowds out in the street, where the battle over the ouster of Ms Arroyo has now shifted. One possible explanation for their failure to secure the required number of signatures is that for two months and until yesterday, it was not clear what complaint would be endorsed to the Senate, considering that each of the three complaints contained different sets of charges.

As legal authorities have pointed out, the first complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano alleged, among other things, that the President had been silent about the wiretapped conversations with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and such silence amounted to "a betrayal of public trust"; and that she lied when she confessed to "a lapse in judgment" when she talked over the telephone with Garcillano about election results.

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. cited an attempt by the opposition to reinforce and amend the Lozano complaint with accusations of impeding the administration of justice, of concealing ownership of property contrary to law, of tax evasion, of acquiescing in the killing of political dissenters, of approving contracts "disadvantageous to the Republic." This shot-gun blast led to the blurring of the focus of the complaint. The omnibus nature of the complaints undermined the main issue raised by the Coalition for Truth seeking the President's ouster for allegedly "stealing" the 2004 elections.

Those driving the movement to oust Ms Arroyo are not clear about what wrong she had committed to warrant her dismissal, either through an impeachment trial or through people power.

Before the people power advocates can win wider public support for their oust-Arroyo movement, they have to stop insulting the intelligence of the public with their ambiguous definition of truth. For example, a group belonging to the Coalition for Truth, the Black and White Movement, said, "We have to make a judgment (on election cheating) on the information available to us—the transcript of the Garci tapes, the testimony, the maneuverings of both the opposition and the administration, and the political developments as these unfold before us."

This statement was made before any complaint, with a bill of particulars and articles of impeachment, has been sent to the Senate. In other words, judgment on cheating has already been made on the basis of perception rather than on verified evidence reached through a methodical and rigorous process that is provided by an impeachment trial. It is this perception that is fueling the movement to shift the resolution of the crisis to the streets.

It is very dangerous for the members of the Black and White Movement to declare that they "believe the issues surrounding the presidency and the impeachment complaint are as clear as Black and White. There are no shades of grey when it comes to the Truth."

Truth has as many sides as there are to a controversy. This movement imposes its own version of truth arrived at arbitrarily without scrutinizing allegations and controverting them with other facts. This notion of making judgment on right or wrong based on unverified facts, which those sitting in judgment would like to believe, has a notorious history. It has been the foundation of obscurantism and the cradle of the most cruel and deplorable witch-hunts in history, including the Holy Inquisition, the Salem witch trials and the anti-communist hysteria of the McCarthy era.

Maybe it might be a good idea for those trying to incite another people power to pause and ask why the accusations against the regime have not provoked the outrage they seek to bring down an intensely reviled regime. Maybe their unilateral version of the truth is not shared by a large enough segment of the public which has reacted tepidly to calls for mass mobilization.

Only what's due them

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN I MET WITH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL superintendent David Toze and ISM Board of Trustees chair Chuck Medel (who I understand has since left the country), they made heartfelt protestations about my perception that racism was at the root of the school's 10-year legal struggle against its Filipino teachers' union.

Medel, a US-based lawyer, said he was "hurt" by that allegation since he is, after all, a Filipino. Toze likewise protested that he held Filipinos in high regard since he has worked for decades in this country.

But does racism really play no role behind the long-standing conflict between the teachers and the school? Or the way the school dragged its feet on the dispute for as long as it could?

As Toze explained it, the issues raised by the teachers, which arose long before he joined ISM, was rooted in the perception of parents "that the composition of the faculty was no longer reflective of the composition of the student body." By "composition" read "race," for by the 1990s the overwhelming majority of the faculty was composed of local hires, 70 percent of whom were Filipinos.

Though I have yet to read any educational research finding that the racial profile of teachers should match that of the student body, the ISM board apparently felt the matter was important. Thus, the administration embarked on a recruitment of more teachers from abroad, mainly in "job fairs" where educators willing to teach in foreign schools could choose from an array of prospective employers. "The market is very competitive, and the Philippines is not a very desirable destination," noted Toze, which meant that the "foreign-hires" would have to be lured to ISM by attractive compensation packages, which resulted on average in a salary rate 25 percent higher than local hires, plus other benefits like housing, transportation, shipping costs, taxes and home-leave travel allowance.

Thus arose the "two-tiered" wage system at ISM, regardless of the academic qualifications, experience and sheer capability of the individual teacher.

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RAQUEL David Ching, president of the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE), asked if there was any one incident that spurred her to lead the Filipino teachers in demanding "parity" with foreign hires, confided: "It's just that, time and again, we would be asked to train and guide new arrivals, who were much younger and much less experienced than us, all the while knowing that they were getting paid much more than we were." Promotions, they noted, also came much faster for foreign hires.

By 1995, ISAE sought to erase the distinctions between local and foreign hires, and when ISM refused to accede to this demand, the union filed a notice of strike. Ironically, given recent events, the union was initially rebuffed by the Department of Labor and Employment, forcing the teachers to elevate their case to the Supreme Court. In 2000, the Court ruled that "employees should be given equal pay for work of equal value," though denying the union's petition that the foreign hires be included as part of the bargaining unit. Because the decision was penned by Justice Santiago Kapunan, ISM continues to refer to it as the "Kapunan decision," even if the Court has already "ruled with finality" on the case.

The present dispute arose when ISAE sought to claim back-wages and other benefits dating back to 1995, the year it first raised the issue of parity. ISM's lawyers argued that the "Kapunan decision" created a "new law" and could therefore not be applied retroactively. Thus began five years of legal wrangling before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals and the DOLE, with the Supreme Court twice having to reiterate its ruling, even chastising ISM for its "disobedience," "dilatory tactics," and "forum-shopping."

I wonder if the supreme court of any other country would have been as patient and long-suffering. And if any other school would have treated it with as much contempt and disdain as ISM did.

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GIVEN that the highest court in the land had already decided in favor of the union, it would seem only the wisest course for the school, despite its continued legal maneuvering, to have set aside funds in the event it would finally be made to pay up. For ISM to now claim that paying the teachers their due could result in the school's closure for lack of funds can only be the height of fiscal irresponsibility. I'm glad Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas has stood firm and called the school's bluff by ordering an auction of school property last Monday.

Different foreign chambers of commerce (and many business columnists) have come out solidly behind ISM, raising the alarm that foreign investors might no longer come to the Philippines if, among various reasons, they could not send their children to an international school. I'm puzzled by this, because I am sure that if these foreign executives found themselves in a similar situation as the teachers, they would fight for every bloody cent due them. Why expect the teachers—the men and women educating and molding their children—to settle for less than their due, or to tolerate any form of racism, subtle or blatant?

The final irony in this saga is that ISM parents finally have what they wanted a decade ago. There are only 32 Filipinos left in the faculty, though the large number of foreign hires at present also means that ISM has had to allot an increasing portion of its budget to faculty salaries and benefits. Meanwhile, more than 100 Filipino faculty members who have since retired from ISM, in the decade the case was making its painful way through our legal system, wait for what's due them—no more, no less.

An account of the 'cañao' circa 1900

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IT IS QUITE ODD FOR MY FATHER, A RETIRED consulting engineer, to keep reminding this wayward historian son to keep a diary. There is simply so much to record, particularly when I am invited to Malacañang where I observe how people on the fringes of power conduct themselves socially. If presidents kept diaries, they would keep historians very busy indeed.

The late Dr. Arturo Rotor, who is better known for his short fiction, the medical condition known as "Rotor's Syndrome (the only Filipino listed in medical books to date) and a species of orchid whose scientific name bears his surname, served as the secretary of the government-in-exile under President Manuel L. Quezon. The Cabinet was not allowed to keep notes of the meetings, but every night Rotor typed out what he remembered. This will surely be a good read.

As a historian, I should keep a record of our times. But often, I am more interested in the diaries of other people from other times. If Rizal was not a compulsive letter and diary writer, I would probably be working in a call center today.

This reminds me of a *chismoso* friend who went to interview some grand old dames in Pampanga as part of his research on the glittering parties and social events of yesteryears. The interview went quite well until one of the ladies asked, "Why are you so interested in our memories? Don't you have any of your own?"

Emilio Aguinaldo did not keep a diary, but his physician Simeon Villa (father of National Artist Jose Garcia Villa) kept one and it is here that we hear Aguinaldo dreaming, after a long trek in mud and heat, that when they attained Philippine independence they would travel to Europe with an allowance of $1 million. A careless remark like that caught today would lead to impeachment.

Yet there are other entries in Villa's diary that are often overlooked by historians but should be interesting to anthropologists, like his account of the *cañao*. Villa claimed this was celebrated when Igorots took "the head of an enemy by means of battle or by treachery." He wrote:

"The extensive mountains of Northern Luzon are inhabited by a great number of savages, amounting to over 60,000, according to geography. These live in barrios or ranches considerably separated from one another. They exist on camote or native potatoes, and anything. At times and on extraordinary occasions, they have rice to eat. They are a people who go naked, and all of them, men and women alike, wear in their ears huge ornaments, which may be either made of copper wires and teeth, etc. Their bodies are adorned with black points, or painted with diverse figures. On their necks they always wear collars of copper wire or cords with pieces of broken plates and other such stuff attached. They only cut their hair in front, letting it grow to a length of about one and a half feet. For greasing their hair they use the fresh fat of the hog.

"They live in settlements, each one of which may contain as many as 1,000 Igorots. Two settlements can never be on good terms; and there is always enmity between all of them. The inhabitants of one settlement cannot visit those of another; they would be killed at once.

"Each Igorot always goes armed with a spear. The Igorots have a deep hatred for Christians but cannot fight them face to face; hence are very treacherous.

"The Kañao is celebrated when they have taken the head of an enemy, the ceremony being as follows:

"They cut the head from the dead body and likewise the hands and feet. The head is carried to the house of the chief of the settlement and then is attached to a pole some 12 feet in length and placed inside the house. All the Igorots of the ranch, wearing the white feathers of a rooster, assemble at the house in which the head has been placed. Each Igorot carries in his hand a spear and a short stick resembling a bandmaster's wand. Before going to the house for the feast, they assemble in groups of 40 or 50; and as they take up the march, they form a line in single file, and all dance as they go along, striking and beating the wands against the lances.

"The dance consists in this: Keeping time to march, they carry one leg to the front executing movements, contraction and extension, the other leg meantime supporting the weight of the body in the act of leaping. The body forms an outward curve. The arms support the lance and the wand, with which they execute movements to the sound of the dance. Several Igorots executing this dance and wearing plumage on their heads present a confusing scene to the vision at first glance.

"Once they arrive at the house of the festivities, the Igorots all dance around the amputated head. They use the hands and feet of the corpse for scrubbing their faces.

"This ceremony lasts for six days, and so it happens that the hands and feet enter a state of putrefaction. At the end of six days the hands, feet and head are buried [near the house]. The corpse itself is buried after the end of the third day, with all the Igorots of the settlement taking part in the ceremony… After the lapse of sufficient time to allow the soft and fleshy parts to rot away, they dig up the skull and skeletons of the hands and feet, using them as valuable ornaments for the house."

Of course, we know much more about Igorots today, but Villa's comments in 1900 form an early historical and anthropological record that should be revisited.

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Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Happy Filipinos

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE COVER REMINDED ME OF ONE OF THE MAINLAND Chinese propaganda magazines back in the 1970s. It showed a couple beaming, the woman with a bouquet of flowers and the man wearing heavy-duty gloves, presumably a worker.

But, it turns out, the photograph was of Filipinos. This was the Sept. 4 issue of the Chinese magazine Yazhou Zhoukan (Asiaweek). In large Chinese characters, the magazine announced its theme to go with the photograph: HAPPY FILIPINOS. Inside, there was an editorial, plus nine pages of articles about the Philippines, all more or less revolving around the theme of the happy Filipino.

Yes, it's that "happiness survey" again, conducted in the Philippines by the Social Weather Stations as part of a World Values Survey coordinated by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

Yazhou Zhoukan had a table giving figures from that World Values Survey showing the Philippines on top of other Asian countries, supposedly because 93 percent of us are happy, with Japan following at 90 percent, Taiwan at 89 percent, China 84 percent, Pakistan 83 percent and Indonesia 77 percent.

To make sure the message of the happy Filipino got through, the article cited World Health Organization statistics for suicide, with the Philippines having the lowest rate in Asia.

Fairly happy

The Feb. 28, 2005 issue of Time (Asian edition) also had "happiness" as their theme, and mentioned the happy Filipino, together with an article by Alan Robles.

Should we be proud of the Yazhou Zhoukan and Time features? Are we about to dislodge the Dalai Lama with sound advice on keeping happy?

I'm not sure. Let me start by wearing my hat as a social researcher and give some caveats about the figures floating around, which all mention the World Values Survey as their source.

I checked the SWS website where they have a media release dated March 14, 2005, clearly stating we're not at the top of the global happiness league. The latest round they did for the World Values Survey was in April 2001, when 38 percent of Filipinos said they were "very happy" and 49 percent were "fairly happy" for a total of 88 percent (probably rounded off).

How did we fare in the global league? The SWS notes: "When using the Very Happy and Fairly Happy responses, Filipinos ranked 31st, slightly above the international average of happiest people. Among its Asian neighbors, the Philippines placed 7th, after Indonesia (95%), Singapore (95%), Vietnam (92%), Taiwan (91%), Japan (89%) and Republic of Korea (88%)."

When it comes to using the "very happy" responses, the Philippines ranked 19th globally. Even in Asia, we trailed behind Vietnam, where 49 percent said they were "very happy."

What then were Time and Yazhou Zhoukan using? It seems the World Values Survey people eventually came up with a "subjective well being" index that combines "happiness" and "life-satisfaction" scores. Now that's where we seem to fare better than our Asian neighbors, as the Yazhou Zhoukan table showed.

Global perceptions

How did this idea of the happiest people on earth get propagated? The SWS press release said that the World Values Survey results were "inaccurately reported by the Office of the Press Secretary in its February 23, 2005 media release 'Filipinos are among the world's happiest people—Survey.'"

So, now we know. But I think there's more to this than zealous press secretaries. First, I don't remember newspapers picking up on the SWS' clarification; instead, I had friends calling me to agree with the rosier Malacañang version. Deep down, I think we truly want to believe we are the happiest people on this planet and maybe eventually that belief helps to generate even more happiness in our hearts.

I suspect, too, there is a global perception that we are indeed one of the happiest people in the world. I've mentioned that Time magazine featured the happy Filipino as well earlier this year.

The global perception is there because, well, Filipinos are now to be found everywhere in the world and wherever we're found, people will say we are a "happy" people. Whenever I'm abroad and people learn I'm Filipino, they'll go, "Oh, Filipino" and start naming traits they associate with us: always laughing, always cracking jokes, always singing and dancing.

So poor, so happy

I'm ambivalent about these compliments, and that ambivalence came back to me as I read the Yazhou Zhoukan articles, which paint a picture of a country buckling under the economic crisis, with widespread poverty (yes, they had pictures of Smoky Mountain) and serious political problems, referring to the clamor for Ms Arroyo to resign. One Chinese phrase used in the article summarized it all: "amid great suffering, happiness."

And to show that happiness, the lead article has a half-page photograph of several men drinking, one of them toasting with a bottle of what looks like brandy. The most startling part of the photograph is that they're drinking with floodwaters swirling around them, almost as if to say, "Let's drink to the floods!"

On the next page is another photograph showing a band of musicians with a large crowd watching them. There, Filipinos are always singing and dancing . . . and drinking.

The lead article's text has a bit of social analysis, referring to our values, especially to *bahala na*, often wrongly translated as fatalism, but in the Yazhou Zhoukan article interpreted as a happy-go-lucky attitude. But the magazine's main thrust is clear in the focus of the other articles: they all deal with our massive deployment of overseas workers, with specific stories on Filipinos in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Yazhou Zhoukan's insights are therefore more pragmatic: we're surviving through overseas deployment and, abroad, our Filipinos are a happy lot. The magazine has photographs of Filipinas in Hong Kong playing the violin, competing in a singing contest, and congregating in one of Hong Kong's plazas. For Malaysia and Taiwan, the pictures are again of Filipinas, this time in churches.

I'd say I generally agree with Yazhou Zhoukan's thrust, which is to show that Pinoy happiness is really part of our coping mechanisms, rather than being the product of a good life.

I started this article Monday, before the congressional hearings began. By coincidence, on Tuesday the INQUIRER had one of my former students, Skilty Labastilla, contributing a Youngblood column with the title "Pessimistic but happy." Skilty's article got me thinking that I'd need two columns to dissect Pinoy—and Pinay—happiness. (There's a difference, as you might have noticed from my description of the Yazhou Zhoukan photographs.)

On Friday, I'm going to write about that elusive term "*masaya*," which was used by the SWS in its surveys and deal, too, with this "subjective well being" concept. For now, let me ask you: Were you happy with the congressional proceedings?

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Small flood can turn into a big disaster

I WISH TO CONVEY MY APPRECIATION OF the editorial "Plugging the drain" (PDI, 8/9/05) which highlighted the plight of physicians.

The root cause of the mass migration of physicians is quite understandably low compensation. It is painful to think that we spent all those years in school only to have compensation which cannot ensure for us even a decent standard of living. The government is not, however, solely to blame for this.

Even in the private sector, there is currently no incentive for young physicians to stay here. Consider a young doctor, who just got his or her license; most probably, he or she would want to go into training. But the average compensation offered by a private hospital to their residents is a measly P250 to P300 a day, this despite their being assigned to 24-hour duty tours which come in cycles of three days, and 10 hours of duty in between cycles. This does not recognize holidays or national disasters. In other words, we are extremely overworked and underpaid.

Ask the professors regarding this, and they will answer you that you have to endure it because you are in training. Well, I think this is ridiculous. Time has changed: Bone-breaking work for a measly salary is no longer acceptable, and a lot of the established physicians on hospital boards fail to see this fact. Old practices should also be changed according to the needs of our changing times; we don't mind the work but, at least, we should be paid decent salaries.

The changing economic realities and these little reasons have given us, physicians of the younger generations, ideas of seeking our fortune somewhere else. The problem may be compared to a small flood now but, in a short time, it could become a deluge. Even when we are to take up nursing, we have to invest a couple of years more for schooling before we can go abroad to work. However, Australia and New Zealand have opened their borders to physicians with offers of even more lucrative compensations than those being paid to nurses. The implication is that a physician need not study nursing, they just have to say yes, pack up their bags and go.

As to the proposal to compel us to render mandatory service, it is helpful to remember that we are the aggrieved party here. The proposal seeks to penalize us for something that is not our fault in the first place. If this proposal pushes through, we end up serving more years under a system that is starving us.

The solution is not simple and is not for the government to undertake alone. The government, the private hospitals and various medical societies should come together and discuss the plight of young physicians, who are, in effect, their children.

—DR. EUGENE A. PET

Getting to work on bikes or with your feet

I TAKE EXCEPTION TO NEAL CRUZ'S COLUMN titled "Reduce 'colorum' buses in Metro, save gas." (PDI, 8/26/05) Although I agree with his view that reducing the number of buses plying Edsa will reduce our dependence on oil, I believe that turning to bikes as an alternative means of transport is a viable solution and should not be belittled.

In fact, the more progressive cities around the world have installed bike lanes to encourage the use of these two-wheeled, eco-friendly machines. They deem the use of bike as progressive, sensible, practical and practicable. Looking at the figures reported by the Land Transportation Office, there are about 10,000 public utility buses plying our streets. A large number of these could very well be "colorum." Thus, as Cruz pointed out correctly, it makes sense to reduce and, if possible, take them out of the roads to conserve oil.

If that makes practical sense, then reducing the number of private vehicles plying our streets also makes great sense. To note the LTO's count, there are as much as half a million registered privately owned cars (500,000) in Metro Manila, not including privately owned utility and sport utility vehicles. Even if we convince just a small number of their owners to use bicycles instead, that will still translate to large savings in oil. Of course, it is easier said than done. And I know there are hazards in using bicycles.

Thus, as I see it, the government's move to install bicycle lanes everywhere is long overdue. But I am not surprised with the opposition to the use of bikes or the alternative of walking. Any proposal that causes some discomfort easily invites scorn and disapproval. I have long learned that walking 5 kilometers a day to and from work, instead of taking a bus, makes total sense. I cannot afford to take the bus or the train, so I walk. The locals here in Dublin even walk twice or thrice as much. They do not mind breaking a sweat if that would save them gas and money. That's practical living we need to learn.

—LANGE PANTOJA,
cyber_grouch_lange@yahoo.ie

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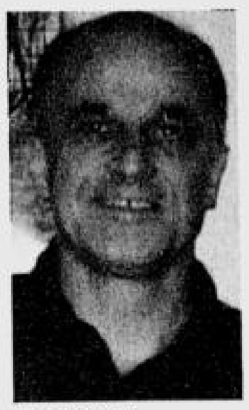
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

German social worker champions cause of Filipino youth offenders

By Donna Demetillo
Baguio City

GERMAN SOCIAL WORKER KLAUS SCHWARZ does not fear prisoners. In fact, Schwarz, a consultant for the Juvenile Justice Network (JJN) and volunteer for the Child and Family Service Philippines Inc. (CFSPI), considers prisoners just "ordinary people who have special problems in life."



SCHWARZ
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

He saw how life was for prisoners as an intern in the German probation service in 1987, and made it his mission to help ensure that prisoners, especially young offenders (or juveniles in conflict with the law), are given justice.

"When you're in prison, you're deprived of most of your rights ... that someone else tells you what to do and when to go out. Having personal rights is one of the highest rights one can have," he said.

Eventually, Schwarz was drawn to helping youth offenders and made it a life commitment to improve their plight. His dream to serve abroad as a social worker was realized when he was assigned by the Evangelischer Entwicklungs Dienst (Church Development Service) to the Philippines in 2002.

Ray Dean Salvosa, former president of the CFSPI, was then looking for a volunteer for Baguio City, and Schwarz was tapped to fill in a three-year contract with the CFSPI. Schwarz worked with minor offenders in the city jail.

As a CFSPI volunteer, he helped establish in 1996 the JJN, a network of government and nongovernment organizations dedicated to the promotion, protection and development of children in conflict with the law. The network conducted preventive and rehabilitative support services to help juvenile offenders rejoin mainstream society.

The JJN was launched in Baguio following the findings of a CFSPI research, funded by the Consuelo Foundation, which saw the need to improve systems and services provided to juvenile offenders.

Four JJN chapters have since been established in the cities of General Santos, Davao, Cebu and Manila. Two more are being organized in Tabuk, Kalinga, and in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

"I knew I wanted to work with offenders. I was challenged by the special life of offenders, and I got to know many colorful people who lived totally different lives from [ours]," he said.

Comfortable life

With wife Uta and children, Maren Benjamin and David, they left the comforts of their home in Germany in 2002 to serve in the Philippines. "We gave up everything. Our car, the bike, we rented out the house," Schwarz said.

Schwarz grew up in Ravensburg, Germany, and lived comfortably with his parents.

His first exposure to the "real world" came when a pastor friend, Klaus Mayer, invited him to visit people with gambling and drinking problems. He was 14 and very scared, yet he saw and felt the needs of these people.

Schwarz saw a "different world" and realized that people live different lifestyles and suffer from different problems.

After high school, Schwarz decided to go into community service, where he worked with handicapped youngsters, aged 15 to 25, for more than a year while studying engineering in the Gymnasium Bad Waldsee.

In the early 1980s, he decided to study social work, after which he worked in the German probation service and dealt with both young and adult offenders.

He said he had never felt uneasy or threatened in the company of the prisoners.

Contributions

Schwarz was instrumental in the drafting of the Baguio City government's rules and regulations on community service. He also helped form a case management team that discusses cases of detained minors.

His and the CFSPI's and JJN's dreams of a Consuelo Center for Juvenile Justice is slowly taking shape, with architects starting to design the building to cater to young offenders.

An important part of Schwarz's work was direct assistance to detained minors through their weekly activities in jail and the youth development program, which include classes, seminars or training sessions to improve their skills.

Another major component of Schwarz's work for the CFSPI was the after-care program for juveniles released from prison. The program included a three-day intensive course on life planning.

Of the 52 participants, only two committed further offenses and were redetained.

Schwarz was also active in the Youth Organization, a group of minors released from prison, and the Triumphant Organization of Parents. Both serve as platforms where parents and their children can express needs and get access to resources to fulfill these needs.

Scholarships

Family members and friends also donated money for scholarships of young offenders.

Twenty scholars—from elementary to college—have been accepted and continue to receive financial help worth P6,000 each for their education.

Schwarz participated in the discussions to gather the commitment of various organizations to push the passage of the juvenile justice bill.

"Justice should focus more on children who have different needs from adults. Their cases must be prioritized, and there should be a separate law for juveniles aside from the penal code," he said.

Through the efforts of Schwarz and his colleagues in the CFSPI and the JJN, the number of young inmates in the city jail here decreased from 34 in July 2002 to 27 in July 2005.

Schwarz's three-year contract with the CFSPI ended last month. But he said his mission to help juveniles in conflict with the law would not end.

Starting September, he will be back at his desk in Ravensburg to work with both juvenile and adult offenders.

"Now that I leave, I know that the JJN is very active and that it has become a dedicated network, addressing the needs of minor offenders even beyond the responsibility of different agencies," Schwarz said.

"It is beyond the influence of a person or even a single organization to introduce dramatic changes to the justice system. It needs the effort and personal commitment of national and international agencies to provide services and convince the Philippine government to enact the juvenile justice bill."

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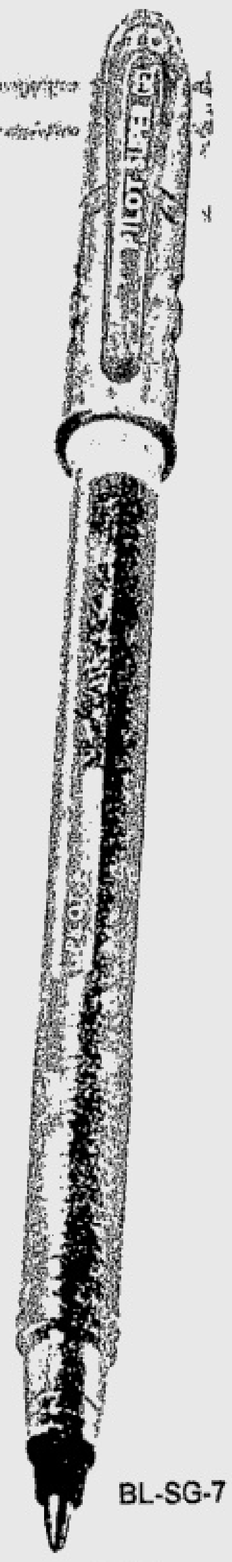

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Probe of Basilan election fraud starts

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE COMmission on Elections has started investigating reports of fraud in Basilan in the elections for officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The Comelec team of investigators, headed by Commissioner Mehol Sadain, flew to Basilan on Monday.

Among those being looked into are claims that in several areas of the province, voting was already concluded or almost completed even before polling centers were yet to officially open.

The Comelec said the investigation seeks to gather affidavits from witnesses who can substantiate the allegations.

Among the witnesses are the 45 election inspectors in the province and eight village chiefs.

The alleged fraud involved 15 precincts, according to the Comelec.

The investigation was launched as the House committee on suffrage also launched an investigation of alleged irregularities committed during the ARMM elections.

In Isabela City, Sadain said he discovered that the people he trusted most to ensure peaceful, honest and clean elections were the ones who violated Comelec orders.

"There were certain preparations done. What we are seeing now is that these preparations were violated with imprudence," Sadain said during the initial phase of the investigation.

Among these were recommendations for the release of election paraphernalia to voting centers.

Earlier, Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin said that Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar bribed the province's 60 village officials to commit election fraud in favor of Zaldy Ampatuan during the Aug. 8 elections in the ARMM.

Salapuddin said his informants told him that Akbar paid P200,000 to P300,000 for each village official so the results of the election would be in Ampatuan's favor.

Ampatuan, a Maguindanao mayor, was declared winner in the recent elections.

But Akbar laughed off Salapuddin's allegations.

He challenged Salapuddin to produce strong evidence against him before putting him on trial by publicity.

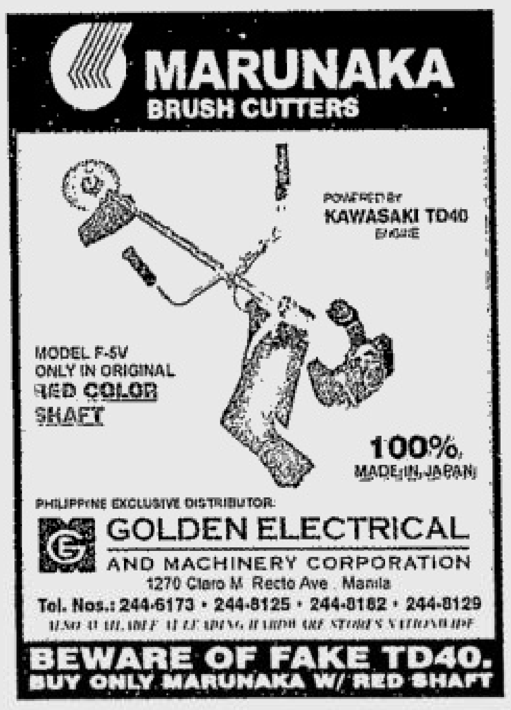
Akbar denied having bribed village officials but admitted they talked with them during the campaign period and sought their support for Ampatuan.

"I will help them facilitate some requests for community projects in return. I did not give a single centavo, I just sought their support," he said.

As this developed, international Islamic democrats will extensively discuss the outcome of the ARMM elections during a congress in Jakarta that started yesterday.

Two supporters of defeated gubernatorial candidate Mahid Mutilan were also invited to present their observations of the Aug. 8 elections at the Congress of Democrats from the Islamic World, co-sponsored by the US-funded National Democratic Institute (NDI).

The forum will be held until Friday, according to the NDI office here. *Julie Alipala, Ryan Rosauro and Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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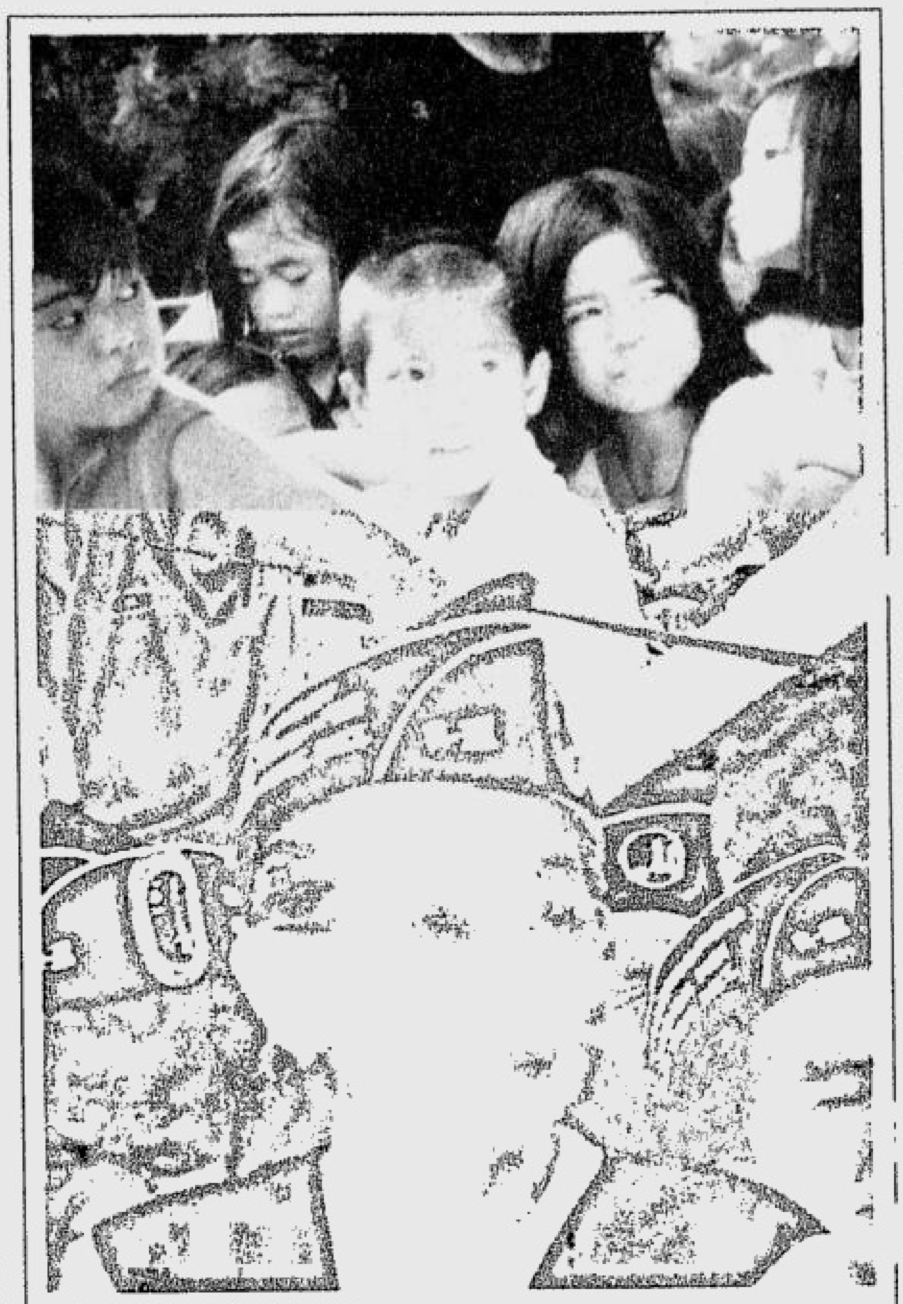


WAITING FOR GLORY

RFM ZAMORA

Young and old wait for President Macapagal-Arroyo's arrival in Kiangan, Ifugao, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Kiangan is the site where Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita surrendered.

Army says raps linking military to slay unfair

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

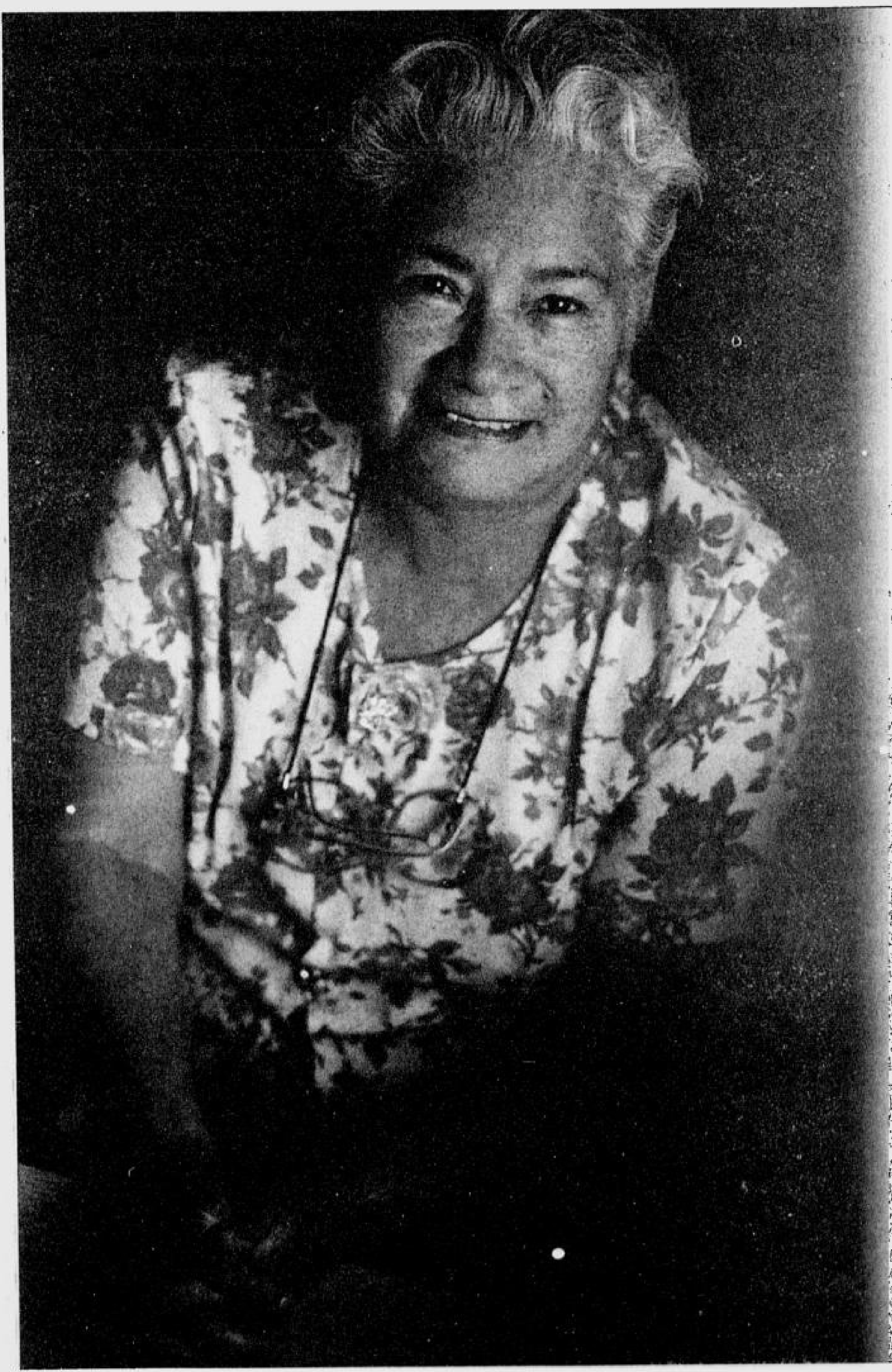
TACLOBAN CITY—MAJ. GEN. BONIfacio Ramos, head of the 8th Infantry Division based in Samar, has branded as "unfair" the allegation that the military had a hand in last week's murder of lawyer Norman Bocar, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) coordinator in Eastern Visayas.

He said the armed forces must not be implicated because there was no evidence that linked the military to the killing of Bocar, 56, also environment and tourism officer of Eastern Samar.

"Those statements implicating the military to the killing of Attorney Bocar obviously do not love the military. They should be fair enough and their allegations must be supported with evidence before they accuse us to be responsible for his death," he told the INQUIRER.

Ramos, who took over as 8th ID chief, maintained that the Philippine Army is a "professional organization" [and] "is not a terrorist group. It does not engage in any terroristic acts."

Militant groups blamed the military for the killing of Bocar who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Sept. 1, while peeing at the gates of a rural bank near the church at the capital town of Borongan in Eastern Samar.


"SALAMAT, NANAIG ANG BATAS
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The League of Provinces of the Philippines, therefore, calls on the Majority and Minority in Congress to consider the following:

1. **Expedite the resolution of the impeachment issue.**
2. **Use legal and peaceful means to resolve the matter.**
3. **Prevent the outbreak of violence.**
4. **Confront the more urgent problems of the country, particularly the oil crisis.**

The league also appeals to the Filipino People for sobriety and unity.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

No people power yet but Cory, Susan hailed

From page A1

presidential election, strode side by side as leaders of a broad anti-Arroyo coalition—the Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan—that includes the Left and the camps of two other defeated presidential candidates.

The march was the first time middle- and upper-class Filipinos mingled with the masses in a show of force against Ms Arroyo.

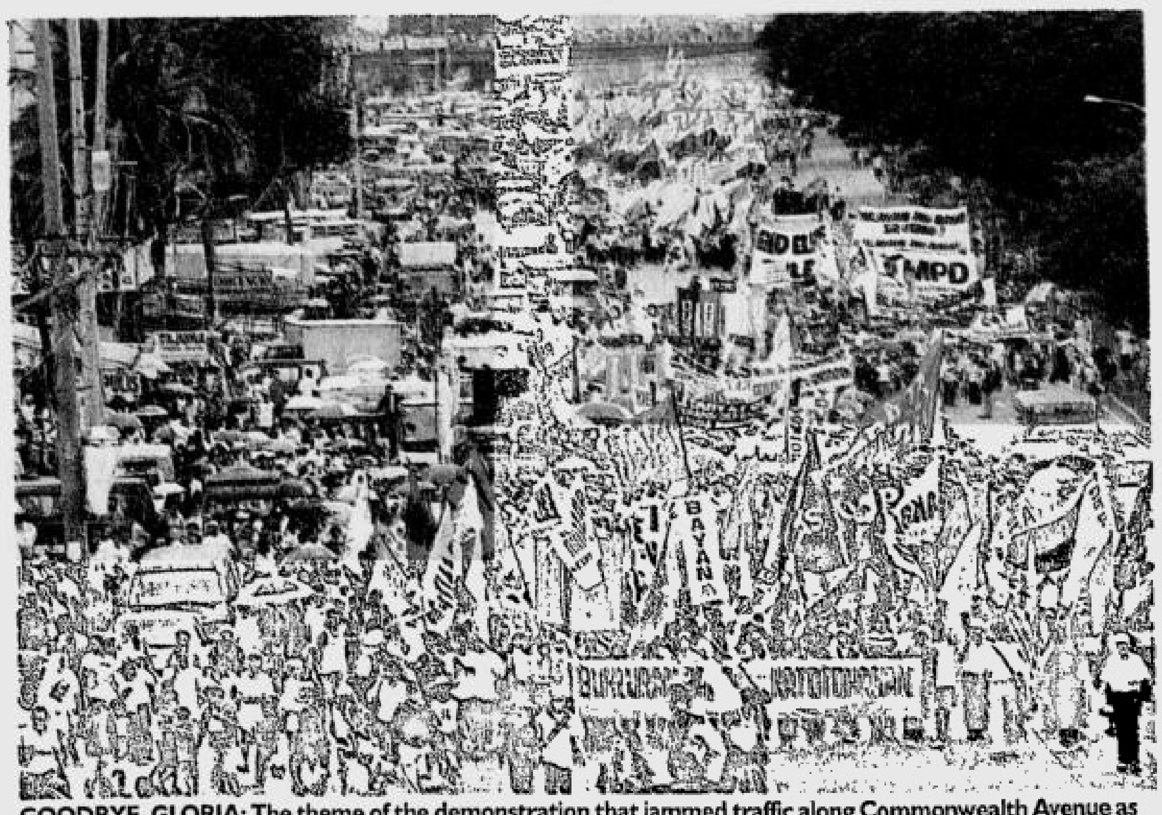
Credit it to the "Cory and Susan factor," said running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

The outspoken priest said the joining of forces between the famous widows was a welcome development in calls for Ms Arroyo's removal. But as things stood, it was still not enough for another people power, he said.

Unlike the two previous Edsa revolutions, the groups against the President still had "heterogeneous" causes. He said the support of other institutions, like the Church and military, was still an important factor in the movement against Ms Arroyo.

When the wishes of opposition forces converge, it may signal the end of Ms Arroyo's government, he said. The march could well be the beginning, he added.

Aquino and Roces and their respective supporters converged at around 1:30 p.m. just beyond St. Peter's Church on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.



GOODBYE, GLORIA: The theme of the demonstration that jammed traffic along Commonwealth Avenue as participants inched their way to the Batasan to lend support to the proimpeachment legislators. JOAN BONDOC

Some yelled 'Gloria Alis!'

Residents rushed to the middle of the road, stepping on the center-island, and broke into loud cheers and applause as Aquino and Roces walked for almost two kilometers to the Batasang Pambansa.

Others yelled "FPJ! FPJ" referring to Roces' late husband. Some yelled "Susan Roces!"

Loud cheers also welcomed the proimpeachment lawmakers who joined the march.

Back to the streets

Among members of the House, who walked with their arms locked to form a human chain, were Representatives Butz Aquino, Roilo Golez, Rolex Suplico and party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teddy Casiño, Liza Masa, Crispin Beltran, Risa Baraquel, Mujiv Hataman and Mayong Aguja.

"I stopped joining rallies to give the impeachment trial a chance. But the (administration) bulldozed the impeachment. I am back to the streets," Laguna Rep. Benjie Agarao told the INQUIRER.

Poe's brother Conrad also showed up. "We hope this (anti-Arroyo protest) continues until the time she steps down," Conrad said.

In a speech, a young member of the militant group Bayan Muna, speaking in Filipino, asked the protesters to "take note of all the names of the congressmen who killed the impeachment."

The warm welcome obviously lifted the spirits of the two widows who, after days of reluctance, finally joined calls to bring efforts against Ms Arroyo to the streets.

Drenched in sweat, Aquino, who inspired Edsa People Power I that toppled the Marcos regime, smiled at the crowd and flashed her signature Laban sign. She wore a straw hat tied with a yellow ribbon.

Spontaneous

Roces waved at the residents—children, young men, mothers carrying their babies and even grandmothers with their grandchildren, who squeezed themselves in the thick crowd.

A newspaper vendor decided to join the rally, still carrying the newspapers and tabloids he could no longer sell. But he said his INQUIRER copies had all been sold.

An estimated 20,000 people joined the march, at least a third of whom came from roadside communities who cheered as the demonstrators passed by, said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Renato Reyes. "It was a spontaneous show of support," he said.

Aside from the militant groups, which had staged bigger but fragmented anti-Arroyo protests, students from De la Salle University, Ateneo de Manila University and priests and nuns under the group Patriots also joined the protest.

10,000 strong

The protest failed to match the mammoth anti-Arroyo rally during the President's State of the Nation Address almost two months ago.

The INQUIRER estimated the crowd to be about 10,000 while Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan said the crowd was about 6,000. Bukluran Para Sa Katotohanan organizers earlier said it would mobilize 50,000 people.

Still, the rally managed to be the biggest street gathering of anti-Arroyo forces so far.

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said the march was the first time that practically all groups opposed to Ms Arroyo demonstrated their collective strength. He attributed this to the Aquino-Roces factor.

Ringed by a security cordon that included young priests, the two women and their allies marched just behind a row of flag-bearers, while behind them followed a kilometer-long throng composed mostly of militant activists.

As yesterday's gathering was meant to be an interfaith rally, Christian and Islamic prayers and later protest songs emanated from audio systems mounted on a convoy of trucks that rolled alongside the march.

Roces came with daughter Mary Grace and actress-niece Sheryl Cruz. Aquino was flanked by Ding Deles and later by Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, former members of the Arroyo Cabinet who have joined the ouster calls.

Teofisto Guingona, too

Also spearheading the march were Teofisto Guingona, Arroyo's estranged Vice President during her first term in office, opposition figures like Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, and some proimpeachment congressmen like Bayan Muna's Satur Ocampo who came looking spent and sleepless from the marathon plenary debates.

Two 2004 presidential candidates—evangelist Eddie Villanueva and opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson—later joined in, the latter catching up taking brisk steps and with a clenched fist raised in the air.

Aquino and Roces walked together for almost an hour before encountering the massive police blockade set up at the corner of Batasan Road and Filinvest Road I.

Palace orders

A tense though harmless jostling ensued at the point of contact, but the commotion was felt way back in the layer of marchers from where Roces stood. "Susan may have been hurt there," said Nick Perlas of Pag-asa, one of the civil society leaders who served as marshals.

Malacañang gave strict orders to riot police not to hurt Aquino and Roces.

Director Vidal Quirol of the National Capital Region Police Office told reporters that his men were ordered "to make sure that Aquino and Roces would not be hurt and that they be allowed inside the session but only in their individual capacity."

This was the reason Aquino and Roces were able to slip through the phalanx of riot police at the entrance to the Batasang Pambansa just an hour before the House of Representatives wrapped up its marathon session on the impeachment case against the President.

Protesters started to leave the area at 6 p.m. with a promise to stage more rallies.

A group is scheduled to hold a rally in front of the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila at noon today before marching on Malacañang.

Another group will hold a protest rally in the Ortigas Business District at 3 p.m., organizers said.

With reports from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Luige del Puerto

2 widows to lead signature drive

AFTER THEY MARCHED TO the Batasang Pambansa, former President Corazon Aquino and Susan Roces said they were ready for more activities to unearth the truth behind the charges that Ms Arroyo cheated in last year's elections.

"We will have a signature campaign," Ms Aquino said her face still flushed from the march. The signature campaign will attempt to revive the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo that was killed in the House yesterday afternoon.

Catching her breath, Ms Roces said "peaceful and legal" activities would continue. "This administration wants us to remain ignorant about the truth. This should not be," she said in Filipino.

"The death of the impeachment complaint in Congress will not stop the Bukluran from seeking the truth," Br. Armin Luistro FSC, spokesperson of the Bukluran, said.

According to Luistro, Bukluran will launch the signature campaign, and hopefully bring the impeachment complaint directly before the people, possibly through a people's tribunal.

"We will also strengthen the coalition," Luistro said.

Roces said Ms Arroyo should be given her day in court, as the President had asked when the impeachment case was first filed in June.

"But she's just being consistent. She says one thing, and does another," Roces said, referring to the efforts of Ms Arroyo's allies in the House to prevent the impeachment complaint from being sent to the Senate for trial.

"It's a shame because she is going to the US, and she's leaving behind a country that she could not unite," Roces said.

INC tipped balance for GMA, says Salceda

From page A1

"The Iglesia came in at a crucial moment last week by putting the brakes on the signature campaign (by the proimpeachment camp) just when it was starting to snowball," Salceda said.

The President's economic adviser noted that the common denominator among those who were absent or those who abstained from the voting was their debt of gratitude to the INC.

"The (INC) helped her (President Arroyo) not once, but twice," said Salceda in reference to the crucial role played by the sect in Ms Arroyo's victory over the king of Philippine movies, Fernando Poe Jr., in the 2004 elections.

Tears of joy

A Malacañang source confirmed the INC's role in holding the fort for the President, who was grateful for the religious sect's support.

"The President was brought close to joyous tears when she learned that it was Ka Erdie Manalo (INC's spiritual leader) who was calling the lawmakers one by one," the source said.

Salceda said that the INC was a prime believer in the status quo and that this was not an opportune time to be rocking the boat in the face of the crises facing the country.

But while the INC proved to be the President's trump card, Salceda said the opposition should not look beyond itself for losing the impeachment battle because of their "big-ticket blunders."

Name-calling

He scored the opposition for alienating the majority for their "unruly behavior" and for dragging key leaders into "name-calling."

He said the opposition made a belated shift to the impeachment process after its people power strategy fizzled out and lawyer Oliver Lozano had filed his complaint. The lawmaker said the opposition did not elaborate either on a post-Arroyo scenario.

Leaders of the opposition likewise rejected the 13th Congress impeachment rules, which would have allowed amended and amalgamated complaints, according to Salceda.

"The opposition clearly misread the public mood by finding comfort [in] surveys that led it to overplay its hand, which made even the most hardline administration position reasonable," he said.

What went wrong

Sources in the proimpeachment camp acknowledged that overconfidence, a lack of organized planning, and political distrust among disparate groups within the opposition camp helped doom the move to impeach the President.

While maintaining that it was Malacañang's financial and political pressure that sealed the fate of the amended impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, a proimpeachment lawmaker said an organized campaign to get the 79 votes needed to impeach the President began in earnest only last week.

"The serious bid to get the votes started too late. (Las Piñas Rep.) Cynthia Villar signed but the other NP (Nacionalista Party) congressmen did not follow her," another lawmaker said.

"We should have tried harder to get the votes. We also were not able to keep our own warm bodies," he said.

Imee Marcos

The lawmaker was referring to three signatories to the amended impeachment complaint—Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL), Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago (NPC) and Western Samar Rep. Reynaldo Uy (LP)—who were absent during the House vote.

"I'm terribly disappointed with (Marcos). But that is her prerogative," said Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez (Ind).

Another lawmaker said he tried to reach Marcos through her cellular phone last night but she did not reply.

Four deputy minority leaders—Quezon City Rep. Vincent "Bingbong" Crisologo, Caloocan Representatives Luis Asistio and Oscar Malapitan, Valenzuela Rep. Antonio Serapio and Maguindanao Rep. Baisendig Dilangalen—also did not vote against the committee report during the plenary session although they had promised the impeachment team they would do so.

Compromise with Erap

Crisologo and Dilangalen abstained while the three others were absent.

A source said the opposition lawmakers did not come in yesterday because of an alleged compromise between Malacañang and former President Joseph Estrada. *(Story on Page A1)*

"We really overestimated the amount of support that we had. We included those committed to sign without actually forcing them to sign," the source said.

"We had 93 commitments to endorse but we ended up getting only a little more than the 49 who actually signed the complaint," he said.

The source also said that the "Hyatt 10" group, or the former Cabinet officials and agency heads who broke away from Ms Arroyo on July 8, did not cooperate with the proimpeachment group until last week because of their dislike for politicians associated with Estrada.

Hyatt 10: Last 2 minutes

"This was painful. The Hyatt 10 never bothered to cooperate until the very last minute. They were sanctimonious about working with the traditional opposition. The only time they decided to cooperate was only last week," he said.

The source said the Hyatt 10 informed the impeachment group only last week about more alleged crimes of the President that would have provided "stronger grounds" for her impeachment.

"They're the grounds that would have generated more support from the public and from the congressmen," he said.

"I could not understand them since in the end, they decided to work with the traditional opposition," he added.

Biggest factors

The source, however, said that it was pressure and financial offers from Malacañang that were the biggest factors in the impeachment complaint's defeat.

"We underestimated Malacañang's use of public funds. We knew Malacañang would use government funds but we did not anticipate that they would give away everything," the source said.

"We thought (the President) would be more circumspect because of the financial crisis," he said.

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Pasay eyed as mecca for animators in Metro

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY IS GROOMING 27 talented residents in the city as world-class animators.

The move is aimed at making Pasay City the mecca of animators in Metro Manila by next year.

Twenty residents, aged 17 to 60, are set to start their three-month basic animation training next week with two professional animators from Top Peg Animation and Creative Studio, said Pasay City Cooperative Office Head Rolando Londonio, one of the pioneers of the project.

The first batch was chosen from 30 residents who took a five-hour examination on Monday, Londonio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The trainees hope to learn the Western and Japanese-style of animation involving pre-production, production and post-production processes.

"Those who would excel during the training would be automatically absorbed by Top Peg Animation and Creative Studio," said Londonio.

Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad signed a Memorandum of Agreement on Monday with the local animation studio represented by its managing director, Marie Grace Dimaranan.

Top Peg, an independent animation studio and a member of the Council, not only promised jobs to the trainees but also guaranteed access to work in different animation companies in both local and international animation studios.

The training costs P6,500, but the trainees need not worry since the city would implement a "Train Now, Pay Later" scheme, Londonio added.

"They would only pay the fee on an installment basis after they have been absorbed by the animation studio," he said.

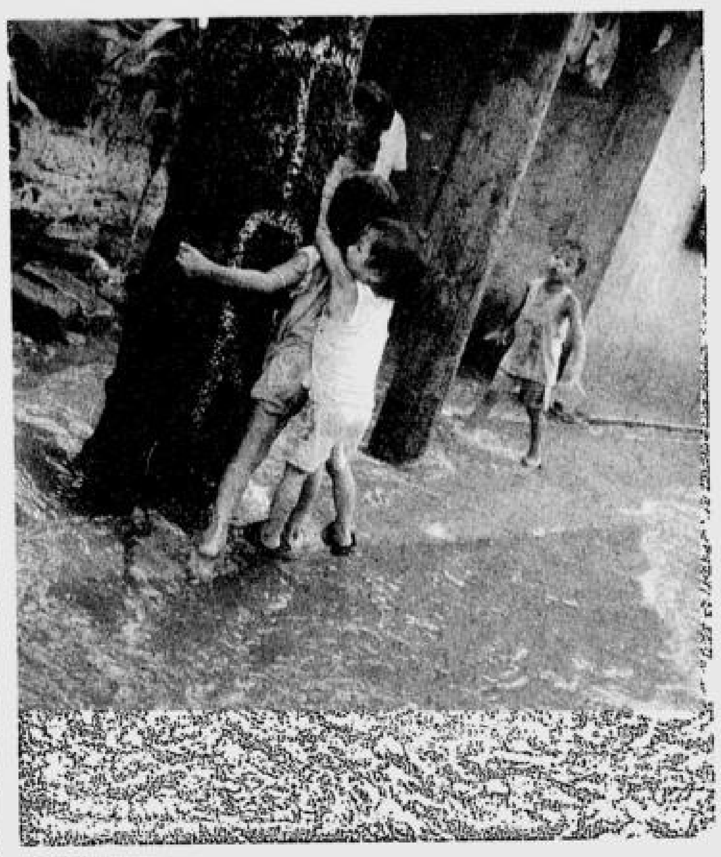
The project, he added, was also a pro-active approach of addressing the city's mounting unemployment problem.

The City Planning unit, at present, is monitoring unemployment rates in the city's 200 barangays through its Community Based Monitoring System.

The survey revealed that the average unemployment rate in two barangays alone was 22 percent, Londonio said.

He also revealed that by next year, the local government would put up a training center in four barangays that could produce around 240 animators from the city.

"The training centers would be community-based because we want the residents to have easy access to the program," added Londonio.



CHILD'S PLAY
While people struggle with floods in the American Gulf States, children of Barangay La Paz in Makati City frolic yesterday in rising waters in their neighborhood. REM ZAMORA

Manila dads say yes to bike lanes

By Tina G. Santos

THE MANILA CITY COUNCIL has approved an ordinance creating bicycle and motorcycle lanes in all major thoroughfares in the city.

Authored by Councilor Ma. Sheilah Lacuna-Pangan, the ordinance paves the way for the designation of these special lanes to ensure their safety from undisciplined motorists.

As a protective measure, the ordinance provides that drivers of four-wheel vehicles and trucks are banned from encroaching into the bike lanes.

"Doing so would mean facing sanctions from city officials," Pangan said.

Violators of the ordinance face a fine of P1,000 for the first offense; P2,000 for the second offense; and P3,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months or both for a third-time offender.

Pangan said the ordinance was conceived as a means to encourage city residents and workers to bike to their destinations amid rising transportation and fuel costs.

"Apart from saving on transportation fares and gas, bikers will also be able to exercise and contribute to reducing the pollution level in the city," Pangan said, adding that an alternative was needed to cope with continuing rise in gas prices.

The ordinance, however, has yet to be implemented although it was approved on July 31. Based on its provisions, the task of implementing the ordinance was given to the Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau.

The ordinance was approved and signed by Mayor Lito Atienza even as he said in an early interview that he was in favor of designating bike lanes only on an emergency basis. "I support it only because we're now experiencing a crisis. But it would only be temporary, not a permanent means of transportation," Atienza said, adding that bike lanes are inefficient and a step backward.

He noted that some cities in other countries, where bicycles used to be the primary mode of transportation, had already banned the use of the two-wheeled vehicle. Atienza said he would rather push for subways.

The Metro Manila Development Authority had earlier initiated plans to create an interconnected 200-kilometer walk and pedal way network in the Metro.

New look for buses: stickers on discipline

By Tarra V. Quismundo

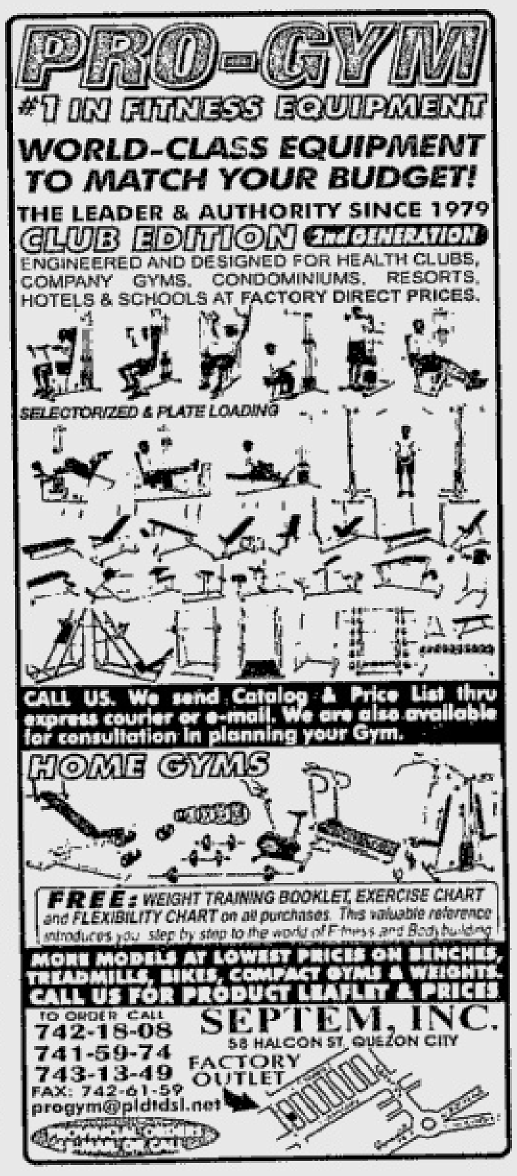
MAYBE STICKERS WOULD DO the trick.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) would soon get sticker-happy in its campaign to discipline bus drivers, conductors, and commuters. The campaign would complement street signs that currently designate proper loading and unloading points on major thoroughfares.

Bothered by bad road habits of both passengers and bus drivers, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando hatched the idea of placing stickers bearing reminders for commuters to get off designated unloading points, and for bus drivers to fetch passengers only in proper loading areas.

"The idea was based on the observation that buses tend to go where the commuters are. This is meant to control the loading and unloading of passengers," said Jojo Pinga, an executive consultant at the MMDA who designs and lays out signs and communication materials for the agency.

Fernando said the stickers would also contain messages on discipline, as well as numbers to call in case of emergency, or to report crime incidents on board buses. The stickers would be placed on the back of the seats where they are easily visible.



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'Environmentalists had role in Arroceros purchase'

By Tina G. Santos

ENVIRONMENT ADVOCATES played a vital role in the acquisition of the contested Arroceros Forest Park by the Manila government.

This was revealed by opposition councilor Bernie Ang as he testified in court the other day to shed light on issues related to the controversial park.

Ang, who was the head of the education committee of the City Council and a member of the city school board during the term of then Mayor Alfredo Lim, had authored the resolution allowing the city government to buy the 2.1-hectare park from the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Ang told the court that Land Bank had accepted the city government's offer to buy the property on the condition that the latter would use it for recreational and educational purposes, said Winner Foundation lawyer Jojo Paras of the Roco, Kapunan, Migallos and Luna Law Offices.

As proof that the property was intended for such a purpose, City Hall, through a Memorandum of Agreement in 1993, handed over the property to Winner which prepared a 20-year forest development plan for the park. The property was only sold for P65 million even if its market value at that time was pegged at P200 million.

Paras said that according to Ang, Winner also helped fulfill another condition set by Land Bank, which was to get approval from the Office of the President, which was then the rule if the property to be acquired exceeded P50 million. "Winner talked to then First Lady Amelita 'Ming' Ramos, whose programs included the Clean and Green Project," Paras said. "The purchase of the property was coursed through Winner," he quoted Ang as saying.

The environmentalists had been at loggerheads with Mayor Lito Atienza, who recently gave the go-signal to build a teacher's center on a portion of the park, and transform the rest of the area into a botanical garden.

The foundation claimed that building any structure inside the park would mean cutting down centuries-old trees and disturbing the natural habitat of birds and wild life in the area.

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Dutch, partner killed

A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER OF THE International School of Manila and his Filipino partner were found stabbed to death yesterday inside their house in Parañaque City. The bodies of Frans Harleman, 58, and John Aquino, 35, were found by their maid inside 31 Dona Alicia St. Ina Executive Homes, Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City, at about 6:30 a.m. Police are looking for two men, including a neighbor identified as Reynaldo Panaligan, who could be involved in the killing. *Jo R. Uy*

Day care workers cited

DAY CARE center workers are unsung heroes who contribute to the future of the nation and for the Quezon City government, it is time they are recognized. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. led local officials in launching a city-wide search for Outstanding Day Care Workers. To qualify, the day-care worker should have had satisfactory performance ratings for the past two years, meet minimum educational requirements, and is involved in community projects. Quezon City has 229 day-care centers. The search is sponsored by Rotary Club, Quezon City Chamberette Inc., Reintegration for Care and Wholeness Foundation Inc., and the Alliance of Quezon City Homeowners' Association Inc. *DJ Yap*

Health cards for poor

SA WAKAS—MAKAKAPAGPAGAMOT NA'KO!

SOME 4,000 residents of Baseco Compound in Tondo, Manila, yesterday got what most of them considered an early Christmas gift—health care opportunities provided by the city government. Mayor Lito Atienza led city officials in distributing Philhealth cards as part of the local government's program to provide healthcare to the city's poor. Philhealth cardholders and their immediate family are entitled to free hospitalization in government hospitals and a maximum discount of P30,000 in private hospitals. *Tina G. Santos*

Pastor's family robbed

TO SPARE HIS FAMILY FROM HARM, evangelical pastor Alan Lee, 30, readily handed over their valuables to four armed men who robbed them late Monday night along C-3 Road in Navotas. Navotas police chief Supt. Genesis Tolejano said the robbers threatened Lee's family. Lee, who identified himself as a pastor, told police that their car developed engine trouble near the boundary of Caloocan City and Navotas while they were on their way home to Naic, Cavite. Police said Lee was fixing their car when the robbers, armed with a gun and a knife, struck at about 11:45 p.m. Tolejano said the robbers took advantage of a downpour and the end of the shift of policemen posted in the area. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Former mayor hits BF official

THE FORMER MAYOR OF LAS Piñas City criticized yesterday an official of United BF Homeowners Association, Inc. (UBFHAI) for claiming "threats to privacy and security" in objecting to the opening of the gates of the subdivision to the motoring public.

Former Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar, in a statement, assailed UBFHAI president Celso Reyes for citing homeowner privacy and security when the association sold 10,000 car stickers yearly to nonresidents, who then had access to the subdivision.

Each sticker cost P1,500, he said.

Aguilar, the husband of the current mayor, Imelda Aguilar, said he could not see any reason why Reyes would refuse to abide by an ordinance allowing nonresidents to freely pass through the subdivision.

"If Reyes is sincere in protecting BF Homes residents he should not be selling stickers to outsiders who he does not have control. Is this the kind of privacy and security he wants for BF subdivision?" Aguilar said.

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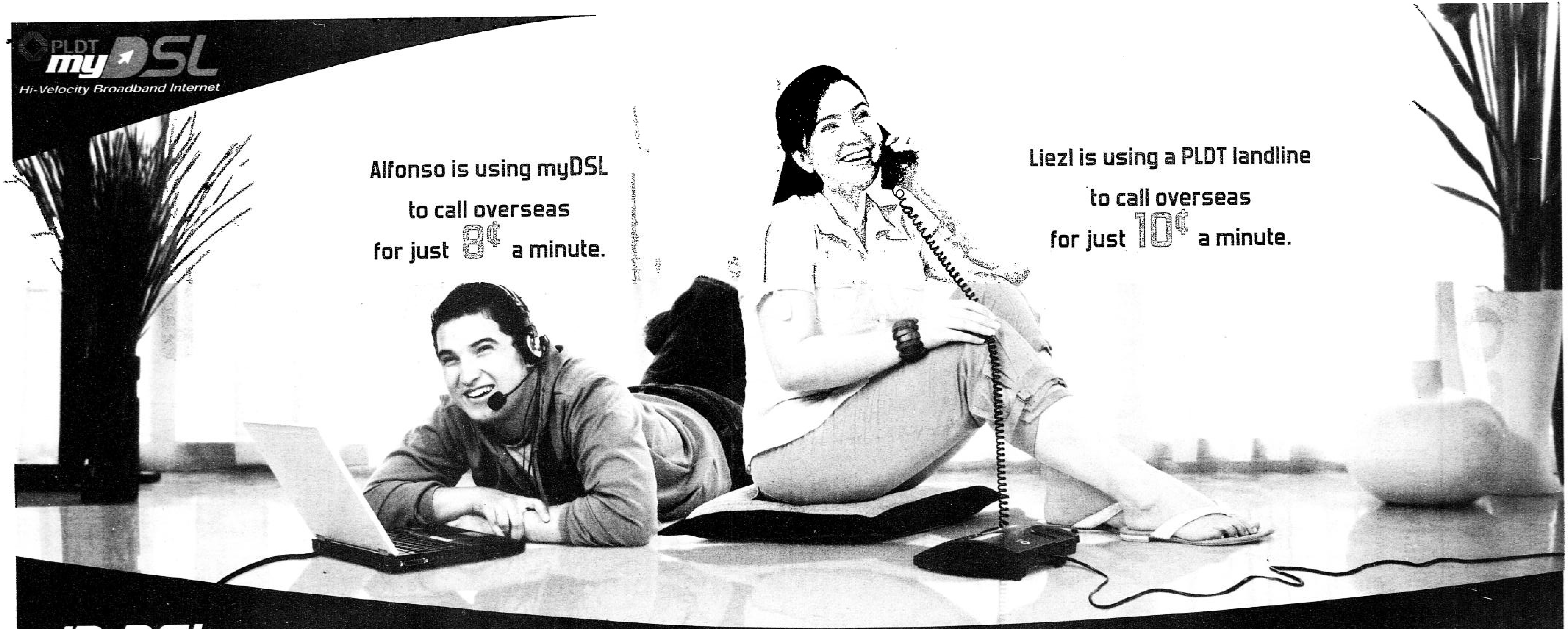

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PLDT

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m. and 11 p.m.; Sports Plus – Check out the final 16 and the women's quarter-finals go underway from Flushing Meadows.

BASEBALL: MLB – Devil Rays vs Yankees; 7 a.m. (r-3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN – Tampa Bay takes on New York in the AL.

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MENDING FENCES WITH POC

Lina seeks PBA help to boost case

By Roy Luarca

HELP US.

Heeding the call of the Philippine Basketball Association for unity among cage leaders, the Basketball Association of the Philippines yesterday sought the help of the pro league in its effort to reconcile with the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"We hope that the PBA, through its officers, can also help the BAP mend fences with the POC for the good of our country and of sports," BAP president Joey Lina said yesterday.

Lina said it is paramount that the Philippines is able to defend the basketball title in the Southeast Asian Games.

He was reacting to a PBA statement issued by league chair Ely Capacio Monday urging the POC and the BAP to thresh out their differences and work toward the immediate restoration of the active status of the Philippines with Fiba.

"Otherwise, neither our programs nor resources maybe utilized by any group or body for any international competition," Capacio warned.

Though expelled by the POC two months ago for "reneging on certain basic agreements," the BAP remains duly recognized by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba).

As a result of the BAP expulsion, the Fiba barred the Philippines from participating in Fiba-sanctioned tournaments. It said the suspension will be lifted if the POC readmits the BAP.

POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., however, said the BAP has to convince the 33 national sports associations that voted for its expulsion to regain its membership.

81

days to [illegible]

23rd SEA Games

Mikee gives up slot to Joker

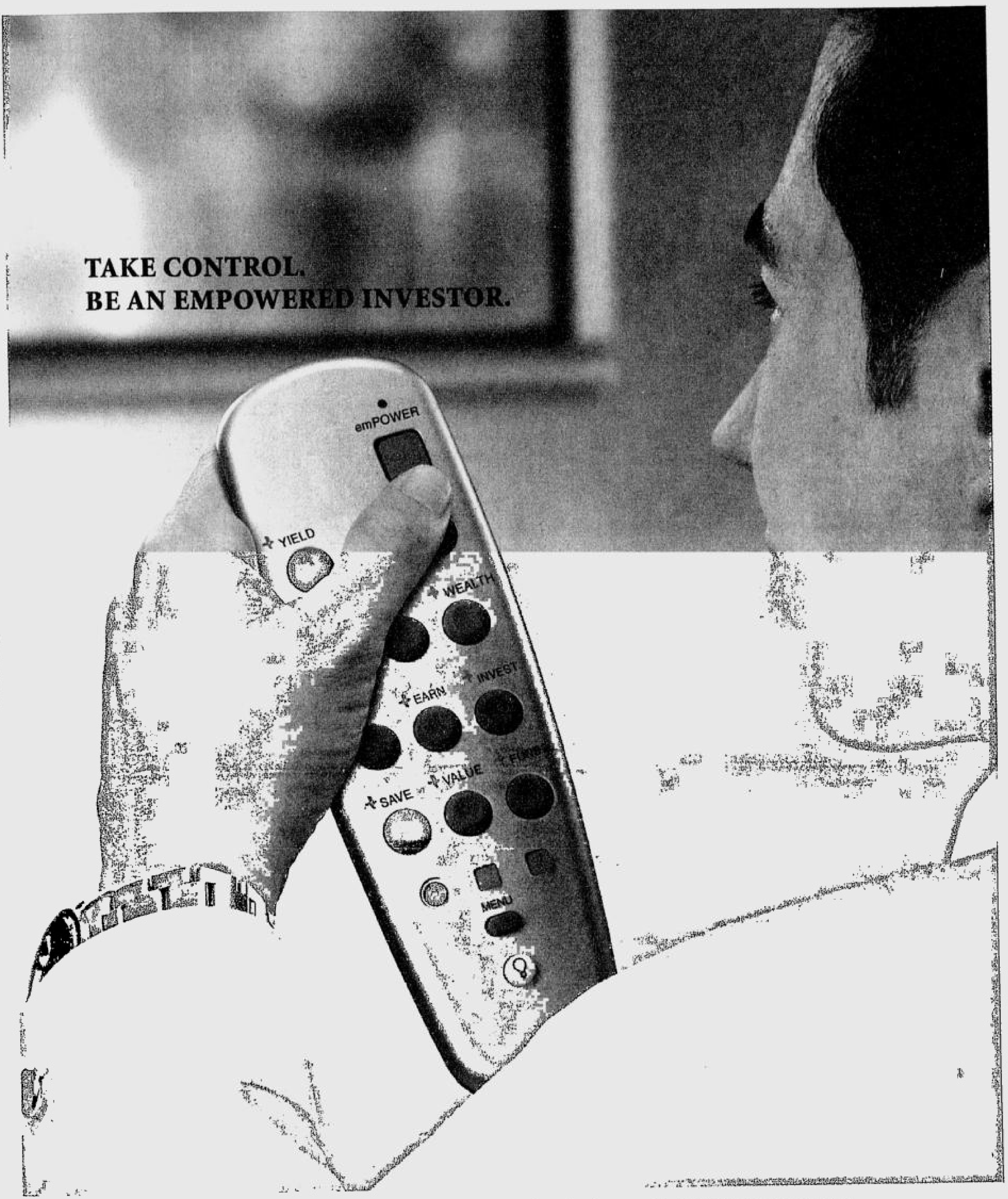
MIKEE COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI, THE 2002 Asian Games equestrian gold medalist, has given up her sure slot in the national team to the Southeast Asian Games to a young and promising rider. Joker Arroyo, a namesake and daughter of the senator, took Mikee's slot in the four-man team which also includes Jones Lanza, Paula Zobel and themulti-titled Toni Leviste. "I can still compete, but I think I can do more by helping in our hosting preparations. Besides, we have young and promising equestrienne *sa* team," said the 31-year-old mother of two and wife of Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr.

* * *

SULTRY singer Viktoria will be seeing action in the SEAG as a member of the RP muay thai team. A total of 17 gold medals will be up for grabs in muay thai, with Viktoria Agbayani shooting for the wai kru gold. Wai kru is an event of form, similar to kata in karate. Incidentally, action star Robin Padilla is in the board of the Philippine Muay Thai Association.

* * *

THE GOAL in One golf tournament, a fund-raising project of the Philippine Women's Football Federation, raised a significant sum for the training of the national women's team seeking to better a fifth place finish in the coming SEAG. A full field of 120 players took part in the 18-hole event, including former President Fidel V. Ramos.



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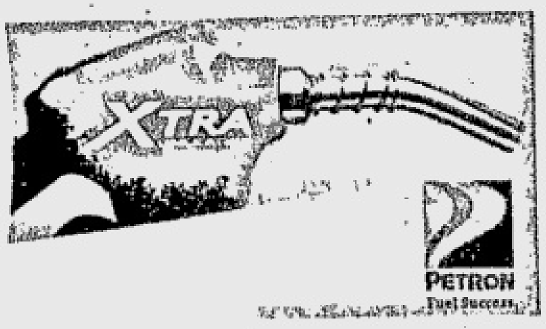


Pacquiao could have a fight Sunday

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

DON'T YOU WORRY. MANNY PACQUIAO cannot, should not, will not lose on Sunday.

This prediction is not based on how Pacquiao has allowed himself to cram for his tuneup bout against Mexican Hector Velasquez at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.

There's no way Pacquiao, 26, could lose.

Take it from the American promoters, led by the sly Bob Arum, who have already set a Pacquiao rematch with Mexican fight icon Erik Morales.

In fact, the date and place for that monumental second fight against the masterful Mexican who taught Pacquiao neat boxing lessons in Las Vegas last March have already been set.

Morales-Pacquiao II will be held at the Thomas and Mack Center inside the University of Las Vegas campus on Jan. 21.

* * *

Pacman can't be expected to falter and fall come Sunday.

Why? Because his opponent has been handpicked to help prop up the rich rematch against Morales, who himself will be seeing action in the same card.

Velasquez, a bobbing stand-up fighter, is perfectly tailored for Pacquiao, a certified slasher.

Promoters have set a party, not an exam for Pacquiao.

The Mexican aspirant may not come in cute and cuddly as a Christmas teddy bear.

But he can't be expected to give Pacquiao even half the trouble he had encountered against two Mexicans, namely Morales and Juan Manuel Marquez, who had clearly outboxed the RP fight hero in their previous encounters in Las Vegas.

* * *

OK. The promoters don't entertain the possibility of an upset.

The odd thing here is that, based on his rush-rush month-long training for Velasquez, Pacquiao could also fall prey to his own folly.

Of course, Velasquez, 30, will have to rise to the occasion if he hopes to make Sunday's fight a monumental event.

However, if the Mexican aspirant retains his usual plodding stance, Pacquiao would be left to feast on him.

Velasquez's job won't be easy, going by his limited, predictable style.

But what if Velasquez suddenly shows up with a new set of legs to carry him in and out in the early rounds?

* * *

Yes, we could also have a fight Sunday.

For this to happen, Velasquez has got to move enough.

If Velasquez escapes the ax-like blows in the early rounds, he could next start testing Pacquiao's gas tank, the body to be exact.

There's a strong likelihood Pacquiao, despite the gift of youth, could start losing breath in the second half of the 12-round duel.

For one, Pacquiao had undergone practically the same limited regimen against Thai Fahsan 3-K Battery in Taguig last December.

Before that bout, trainer Freddie Roach had bragged that Pacquiao was already a hundred percent ready for the easy test.

However, Pacquiao, visibly gasping for air at the end of the third, had to resort to an emergency.

He did some frantic punching to stop his overmatched foe in the fifth, before he himself could totally fag out.

Pacquiao may have to bring in an extra oxygen tank Sunday.

Sagad shows way for Espinas in MVP derby

By Jasmine W. Payo

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Nestlé Cheerdance Competition
4 p.m.—San Beda vs SSC (Jrs playoff)

FOR THEIR CONSISTENT IMPOSING PRESence, three big men emerged as the leading candidates for the top individual plum in the NCAA basketball tournament.

St. Benilde Blazers center Jay Sagad surprisingly topped the statistical category for the Most Valuable Player award after earning 521 statistical points anchored on averages of 11.9 points and 10.4 rebounds per game at the end of the elimination round.

Philippine Christian U Dolphins' main man, Gabby Espinas, who is gunning for a second straight MVP plum, was second-best with 516 statistical points.

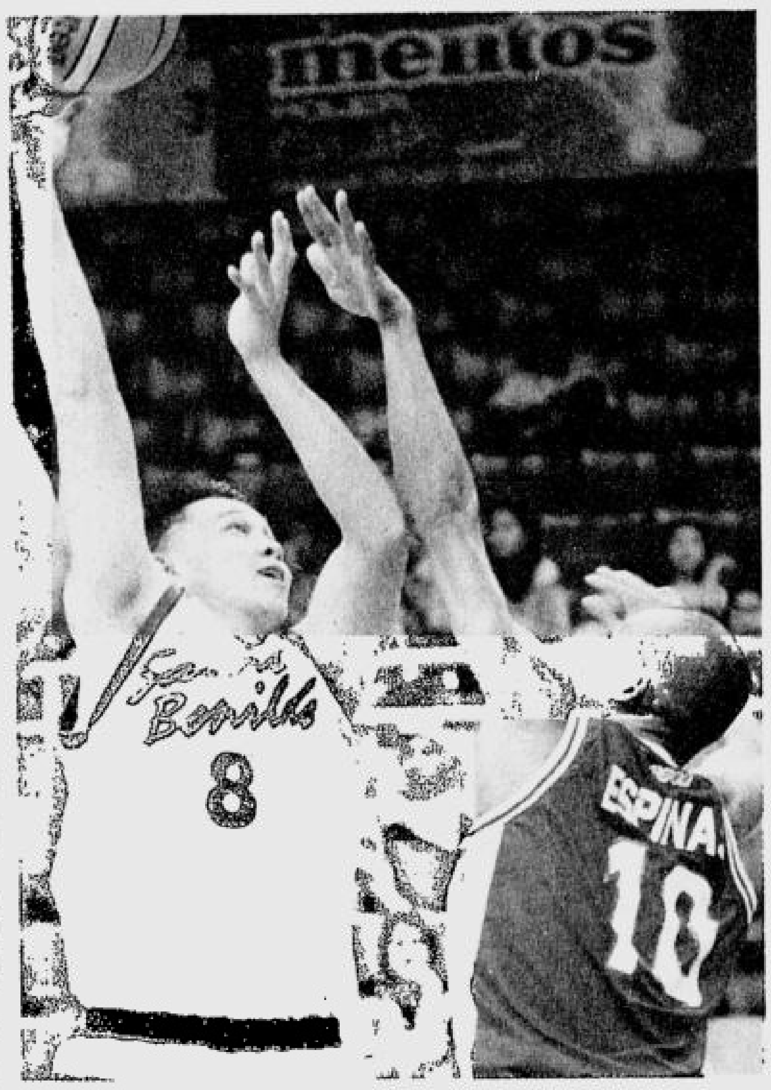
The fiery forward, who normed 13.1 points and 11.4 rebounds, made league history by winning the 2004 MVP and Rookie of the Year titles and by powering the Dolphins to their first title.

Pro-bound Leo Najorda of the San Sebastian Stags remained a strong third, raking in 473 statistical points with a league-best 17.6 points on top of an average nine rebounds.

Kelvin dela Peña of Mapua looked a cinch for the Rookie of the Year award with 366 statistical points. Ranked ninth overall, the 6-foot-1 guard averaged 10.4 points and finished second in steals at 2.4 spg and third in assists at 3.2 apg.

Meanwhile, Letran and PCU try to arrange a championship showdown when the semifinal games kick off on Friday. The Knights will take on the San Sebastian Stags (7-7), while the Dolphins will collide against the Mapua Cardinals (9-5).

In junior play, defending champion San Beda Cubs and the San Sebastian Staglets will dispute the top spot in a playoff match at 4 p.m. today.



ST. BENILDE big man Jay Sagad (left) and Philippine Christian U star Gabby Espinas lead the race for the NCAA's MVP award. RYAN LIM

BATTLE OF COURTS

Portside, Smashville shuttlers gain finals

PORTSIDE BADMINTON PLAZA OF CEBU and Smashville Fitness Center of Davao secured tickets to the grand finals after topping the Visayas and Mindanao eliminations, respectively, of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2 over the weekend.

Portside turned back Metro Sports in the final to complete a three-game sweep of the Visayas elims while Smashville pulled the rug from under Wheels N More in a thrilling Mindanao finale.

Portside and Smashville thus joined early qualifiers Valle Verde, Myan's, The Zone and PowerSmash in next month's finals where they will be joined by the top two winners of three more Metro Manila elims.

This weekend, the Alabang Racquet Club hosts the South elims of the BOTC, also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever, Wilson as the official shuttlecock and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier.

The Portside pair of Jeselle Solivas-Allaine Arias won over Metrosports' Arlene Yu-Ethel Choachuy, 15-4, 15-5, to give their team a 1-0 lead, before Ogie Laranas-Moching Aquino avenged an earlier loss to Jordan Tanco-Jomi Tan with a 15-9, 15-11 win that settled the issue. Portside's mixed doubles team of Gina Juan and Ruel Dihiansan didn't have to play their match against Shelvy Tinoco-Alex Rañola.

Smashville's Ronald Lim and Dolly Yuste bested Nelson Obenita-Cara de los Santos, 15-8, 15-4, in mixed doubles to clinch the trip to Manila for their team.

Marianne Llanes-Agnes Atienza broke the ice for Smashville with a 15-5, 15-11 win over Mimi Acosta-Mekay Sion. But Vincent Tupas-Ritchie Mearns drew level for Wheels N More when they trounced Bryan Lim and Marlon Rebaya 15-5, 15-7.

The winners will be flown to Manila for the grand finals by Cebu Pacific.

Vandals destroy SEAG promo materials

SOUTHEAST Asian Games organizing committee official and Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday lamented the destruction of promotional materials for the SEA Games in this city in the wake of an indignation rally held by pro-impeachment protesters last Monday.

Protesters threw red paint at posters and vandalized billboards promoting the SEA Games all over the city, including large streamers bearing the solon's face and that of other local officials.

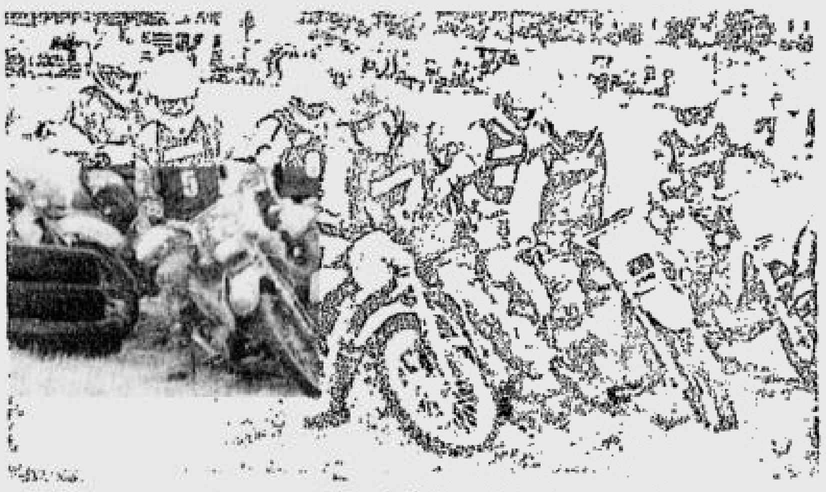
Bacolod has been well ahead in promoting the city as a SEAG satellite host of five events—boxing, men's football, beach volleyball, indoor volleyball and weightlifting.

"It is very sad that the promotional materials for a pro-people event like the SEAG that will benefit thousands of people had been destroyed allegedly by pro-impeachment vandals," Puentevella said.

Bacolod SEA Games Organizing Committee secretary general Eric Loretizo said the damaged materials will be replaced.

"While we respect the people's right to express themselves, I, however, lament that such an apolitical activity as the SEA Games was not spared when their emotions ran high," Loretizo was quoted as saying in the local newspaper Visayan Daily Star.

Some 100 members of the Laban ng Masa and Convergence for Arroyo's Resignation held the rally in front of the Bacolod city hall. *Marc Anthony Reyes*



JOLET JAO (2) shadows Joey Almeda (11) early in the second race.

'Oldie' Jao posts twin kill

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE last raced on a dirt track, but multititled Jolet Jao still flashed his old form with a double victory in the 2005 Honda XRM Supermoto Challenge yesterday at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Jao, an 11-time motocross champion who has dominated the road racing scene the past nine years, pulled away early to top the Expert Superstock class over runner-up Ted Conde and third placer Alvin Beech.

Then he rallied from the tail of the pack to win the Expert Modified crown.

From dead last in the 13-man field following two spills, Jao slowly worked his way up and passed leader Joey Almeda in the last lap.

Jerry Beech and Conde took the second and third overall honors while Almeda settled for fourth in the event organized by Speedgear Sports Inc. and backed by Honda Philippines.

Honda Phils. president and GM Yasuhiro Oyama congratulated SSI head Almeda even as Honda PR and Safety Riding manager Tix Villena bared plans of making it a nationwide event.

Bryan Ortile ruled the Novice Stock over Michael Sagcal and third placer Patrick Beech while Arlan dela Cruz topped the Novice Modified division over Randy Dayao and Joel Solomon.

Joanna Arreglado outlasted Hazel Santos and Che Caedo in the ladies' class while Kokie Beech won over Chuck Montecillo and Eggay Quesada in the media class.

Cavite cagers rap Oro Stars, get best mark

TAGAYTAY CITY—CAVITE ASSURED ITSELF OF a top finish in the Northern Conference of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Monday night by beating Cagayan de Oro, 95-86, at the Sports Center here.

The Insurers wound up their elimination record at 8-5, leaving Forward Taguig as the only team capable of catching them at the top.

The Far Eastern Insurance-backed Cavite leaned on 6-foot-6 Don Yabut's 19 points and the combined 30-point output of Jay-Ar Estrada and Ismael Junio to pull through despite the absence of main man Marvin Ortiguerra.

The Stars of former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin led, 48-45, at the turn.

The Stars' record dropped to 4-7 in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Fare Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Hotel.

Meanwhile, Bacchus/Harbour Centre plays defending champion Tribu Sugbu at 7 p.m. at the Minglanilla Sports Center in Cebu.

The scores:

CAVITE 95—Yabut 19, Estrada 15, Junio 15, Bonus 13, Booker 10, Tierra 10, Rodriguez 7, Mopera 4, Santiago 2, Santos 0.

CDO 86—Ramos 28, Isidro 27, Dela Victoria 11, Tadena 9, Rivera 4, Jabagat 3, Romaguera 2, Diango 2, Culdora 0.

Quarters: 21-21, 45-48, 68-67, 95-86.

Favored RP cyclists expect at least six Games gold medals

By Musong R. Castillo

RENATO DOLOSA, ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN and colorful personalities of the fabled Tour ng Pilipinas bikathon, predicts at least six gold medals for Filipino cyclists in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

But he also rued the one that got away this early following the non-inclusion of the road event where a team built around former Tour champions Warren Davadilla and Arnel Quirimit would have been unbeatable.

"There is no way we would lose in that event," Dolosa told the INQUIRER in Filipino during the PSA Forum yesterday at the Pantalan restaurant in Manila. "It's a shame that it was not included in the roster of cycling events.

The Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines said that at least half of the 12 gold medals to be staked are in the bag for the country's riders.

Overall head coach Jomel Lorenzo said the prospective golds will come in the men's Individual Time Trial (ITT), team pursuit, mountain bike, criterium, the women's cross country and the men's road race.

SPORTSWATCH

Badillan leads net champs

IRIGA—Eric Paul Badillan of Baao posted a hard-earned 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 victory over Sergio Ramos to bag the boys' 12-under division in the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Usant Tennis Club here over the weekend. Badilla stayed on target for the grand prize—a trip to Malaysia—as he goes to Manila for the National Finals slated Oct. 29-30 along with Edgardo Formalejo of Naga in the unisex 1-under; Jan Osea, also from Naga, in the boys' 14-under, and local lass Madeline Ramos in the girls' 12-under. Formalejo whipped Mark Ramos, 6-3, 6-2; Osea tripped Fritz Bernales, 7-5, 6-1, and Madeline Ramos nipped Ma. Carmelita Formalejo, 6-3, 6-4, in the event organized by CTW and supported by Adidas. Club president Maestro Eli Ibarra awarded the trophies to the winners.

Para Games needs more funds

IN A SPAN of 100 days, the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee expects to educate more Filipinos about people with disabilities and draw support from the government and the private sector for the preparation of athletes who will carry the country's colors in the 3rd Asean Para Games which unreels on Dec. 14. Unlike the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, which has a budget requirement of close to P1 billion, the 11-nation Para Games needs just P40 million, a target which it has not yet reached, Papgoc chair Michael Barredo told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan restaurant in Manila sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. The 100-day countdown to the games officially began yesterday with the launch of the Games website at www.3rdaseanparagames.org.ph.

'Showdown' at Roligon up

WITH 106 fights lined up, the championship round of National Showdown 7-Stag Derby is expected to draw thousands of cockfight enthusiasts to Roligon Mega Cockpit starting at 2 p.m. today. Leading the qualifiers with three wins each are Eric dela Rosa and Lito Roque (Ika-10 Labanan Sa Pasay Sept. 30), Boyet Plaza and Pepito Ngo (Surefire Fatman), Ramon Mancenares (RM-Enzu), Rene Acop (Adiaman Blues), Ric Reyes (RBR Rian Warbirds), Pablo Hupano (Michael Jr. I), Ben Uy (Alfonso Warriors), Bibet Carpio (King Mark) and the JTJ Maria Cristita entry. The total guaranteed prize is P1.7 million, according to hosts Danny Ty and lawyer Romero Yu. Slated next is the "Ika-10 Taong Palaban 6-Stag Derby" on Sept. 17, 19, 21, 24 and 27. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638, 8529812 or 0917-8277484.

PCCA 4-stag derby Friday

FOUR stagfests will be presented by the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) this year to determine the Stagfighter of the Year 2005. The first event, a 4-stag derby, kicks off Friday at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The PCCA will welcome to its fold new members Eddie de los Santos, Rod Villarubio, Tonette Luzuriaga, John Lavarez, RQP San Juan, Sam Mendoza, Carrie Chua, Arnold Mendoza, Francis Colenares, Edwin Arenas and Cyrus Hao. Regular members are Alex Tang, Rey Briones, Allan Siaco, Arman Santos, Blandy Tolentino, Tonton Uy, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Frankie Uy, Jack Chung, Jaime Arandia, Jake Macasaet, Joel Fernando, Joey Lapid, Jun and Anthony Marasigan, Lito Alcantara, Ramon Mancenares, Madlambayan brothers, Tony Marfori, William Go, Pepito Ngo, Ferdie Eusebio and Pol Estrellado. Other PCCA stagfests will be held on Sept. 23, Oct. 7 and 21. For inquiries, call 8431890, 8431746 or 8166750.

'Palaban' screening begins

FARM-TO-FARM screening of stags shifts to high gear for Edgar Coronel's "Ika-10 Taon na Palaban 6-Stag Derby" at Roligon Mega Cockpit. It is backed by GMP (Ginawa para sa Manok Panabong) maintenance pellets. The event is set Sept. 24, 26, 28 (with separate 2-stag eliminations); Oct. 1 (4-stag semifinals for those with at least 1 point) and on Oct. 3 (4-stag championship for entries with scores of 1.5 and 2 points). Up for grabs is a cash prize of P1.5 million for an entry fee of P8,800. Minimum bet is P5,500. Handler's prize is P150,000 while gaffer's prize is P75,000. Screenings at Roligon will be held on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until Sept. 18. For inquiries, call 8512275, 8331638, 8529812 or 0920-9509293. Also calendared is the Thunderbird Bexan-XP-backed 5-Stag Invitational 3-Day Derby of Elmer Codilla, Mayor Eric C. Codilla and Rep. Dodong M. Codilla at the Valencia Sports Center on Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1 The P1.3-million Stag Festival 6-Stag Derby of Rolly Ligon comes next on Oct. 17, 19 and 21.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Sparkling Cool 2. Lady Victoria 3. Kalashnikov 4. Samaha
Race 3—1. Truly Impressive 2. Extreme Power 3 Mes Monique 4. Totoo To 5. Dondon's Entry
Race 4—1. Sunline 2. Casanova/Spinning Bullet 3 Friendly Venture/Reporter 4. Ahoy My Boy
Race 5—1. Blue Bolero 2. Power Dance 3. Sha Sham 4. I Remain 5. Happy Again
Race 6—1. Prima Vera 2. Magic Dancer 3. Inne Wheeler 4. Parrot Moe
Race 7—1. Million Dollar 2. Holy King 3. Bunke Buster 4. Highly Connected 5. Classic Royale
Race 8—1. Decidido 2. Divine Right 3. America Beauty 4. Epic Energy 5. Jajie/Witch Craft 6. Cid

Paragua downs Viet super-GM, wrests Asian zonal lead

KUALA LUMPUR—FILIPINO MARK PARAGUA, justifying his newly acquired Grandmaster title, beat Vietnamese super-GM and top seed Dao Thien Hai in the fifth round Tuesday to grab the lead in the Zone 3.3 Open and Women's Championship at the Stanford Hotel here.

The win, posted with the black pieces, gave the 21-year-old Paragua 4.5 points, half a point clear of GMs Nguyen Anh Dung of Vietnam and Utut Adianto of Indonesia and Fide Master Tirto of Indonesia halfway through the tournament serving as qualifying for this year's World Chess Championship.

In women's play, WFM Sheerie Joy Lomibao of the Philippines shared the lead with top seed WGM Munguntucel Bazkhuyug of Mongolia after they played to a draw in the fifth round. Both tote 4 points.

Seven other Filipinos, led by GM Joey Antonio, remained in strong contention.

Antonio drew with Adianto in the fifth round and was at 3.5 points, in a tie with compatriots IM Jayson Gonzales, NM Oliver Barbosa, and GM Nelson Mariano. Gonzales and Barbosa agreed to a truce while Mariano split the point with Burmese IM Wynn Zaw Htun.

GM Eugene Torre rebounded with a victory over FM Oliver Dimakiling to climb to 3 points in the company of defending champion IM Ronald Dableo, who drew with FM Pham Chuong of Brunei.

Dimakiling had 2.5 points with fellow Filipino Darwin Laylo, half a point ahead of IMs Barlo Nadera and Petronio Roca.

Reading between lines

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

JUST before the PBA board meeting last Monday, I heard one of the governors say that the RP team disbandment was imminent since four of the seven ballclubs were in favor of the move.

In the four-sentence press statement issued by the board after the meeting, absolutely no mention of the disbandment was made, and I wondered why.

"The PBA demands, in no uncertain terms, from the POC and the BAP to work towards the immediate restoration of the active status of the country with the Fiba (international basketball federation). Otherwise, neither our program nor resources will be utilized by any group or body for any international basketball competition," the statement read.

The governor urged me to read between the lines.

"First of all, let me tell you that the word 'immediate' here means one month. If the Fiba ban is not lifted by this time, there is no reason to keep the national team. And did you notice that no mention of the PBFI was made? Did you not stop to think that they are not part of the equation?" he said.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala, he said, had appealed for reconsideration, presenting a manifesto signed by the national players asking that the RP team be kept intact.

"In fact, this manifesto did not sit well with one governor, who pointed out that the cagers and their coach, Chot Reyes, had no business getting involved in the conflict, in politics, to be more specific. He probably suspected that Chot was behind the manifesto," revealed our source.

He said the board never got to the voting stage because of this.

"You know we're always behind the times. *Hindi na kasi uso ngayon ang* long preparation, due to the sprouting of commercial leagues all over Asia. Now national squads in powerhouse countries are formed about two months before an international tournament. Sometimes one month *pa nga*."

I heard the same from Korean and Japanese coaches who visited Manila last year.

***

"I consider myself lucky to have seen live at the Ateneo Gym the classic rematch between UE and DLSU, coached by cage geniuses Dindo and Franz Pumaren, respectively. The game evoked memories of the controversial US-USSR finals in the '72 Munich Olympics won by the Soviets, 51-50, in a confusion-marred endgame drama," basketball scholar Teddy Reynoso of Bulacan, Bulacan, wrote in an e-mail.

"UE could've won outright had they and their fans not celebrated prematurely," he added. "Whew! What a game. My palms are still sweating from excitement." This, 48 hours after the game.

Incidentally, *manong* Derrick and youngest sibling Dindo have not heard from Franz since the protest.

This can only mean that when it comes to basketball, no quarters are given—or taken, as far as the Pumarens are concerned.

"We know Franz has a responsibility to La Salle. Dindo and I also have a responsibility to UE. We'd like to think we're all professionals," *manong* Derrick said.

What?! Has basketball become thicker than blood?

***

Even with rookies Anthony Washington and Mark Cardona dealt to Talk 'N Text, Air 21 team manager and governor Lito Alvarez said the Express will be a stronger team this coming season than it was last year.

"We needed a center and we got Yancy (de Ocampo). Head coach Bo Perasol tried to transform Washington into a slotman, *pero hindi pumuwede. Tres talaga ang laro niya*, so we had to let him go," Lito explained.

***

HOOPVINE: Alex Cabagnot is due to arrive in Manila any day now, according to Sta. Lucia governor Buddy Encarnado... Contrary to reports, UAAP technical head Ricky Palou abstained from voting during the deliberations on the UE protest...

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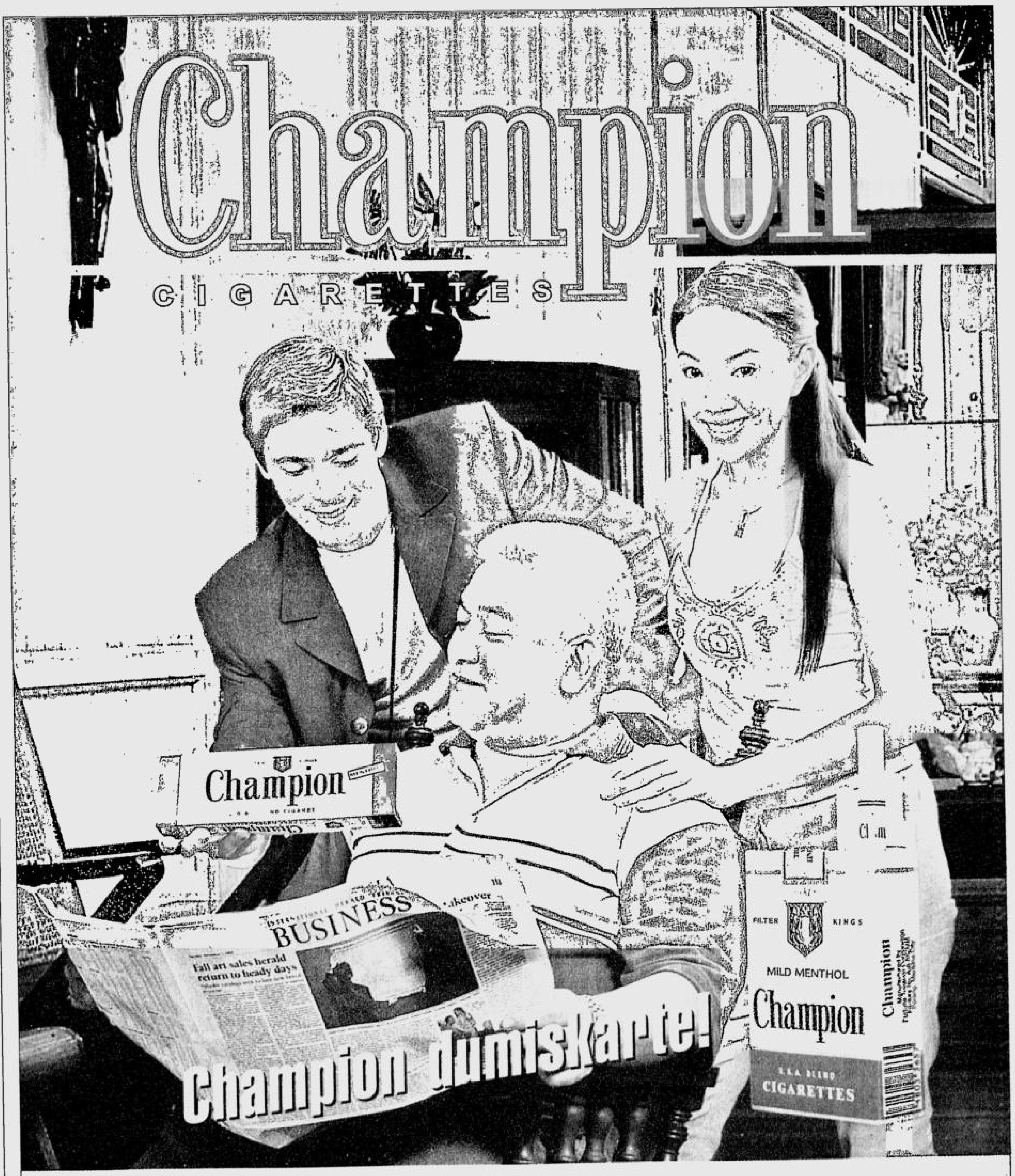

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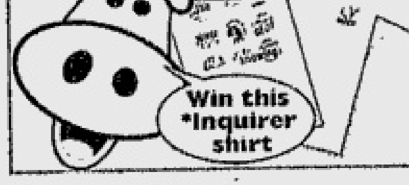

Question of the Week

Do you agree with the majority vote in the House of Representatives that upheld the justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against President Arroyo?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!*

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32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, MMLDC ANTIPOLO CITY

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MESSAGES

Republic of the Philippines
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Malacañan Palace

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) / Asian Regional Training and Development Organization (ARTDO) as you host the 32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference.

Your theme, "Unified Global HRD: Breaking Boundaries", shows your resolve to enhance the skills of HRD practitioners so that they will be at par with their counterparts in the region. By exploring emerging trends in the training and development of human resources , you strengthen the foundation of our HRD profession and foster camaraderie among your member nations.

Let us work in hand to create a conducive business environment for local and foreign investors. I also urge you to support the Administration's revenue generating measures and fiscal reform programs so that together we can beat the odds and provide every Filipino with a better life.

I wish you all the best in this event and in all your future endeavors.

Welcome to all our foreign visitors and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment

It is my great pleasure to commend the Asian Regional Training and Development Organization for convening the 32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference here in the Philippines. I also wish to congratulate the Philippine Society for Training and Development for being at the forefront of this Conference.

Your unified approach to promote human resources development has been recognized since 1974. As front liners in the field of human resource development, you have relentlessly pursued your original vision to better understand, manage and develop human resource in a rapidly changing volatile environment.

As you move forward with the vision break boundaries, let me stress that the time for human resource development in Asia is now. Our economies are gaining ground within the global environment, our societies are integrating toward cooperation, and most importantly, our peoples are being recognized as valuable resources.

I therefore urge you toward initiatives that foster the value of people as resources that are continuously enriched instead of being exploited. For resources to be maximized to its full potential, we have to guarantee their basic rights and prepare them for the dynamics of change through information, values formation and skills.

In behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment, let me join hands with you in your collective effort to recognize human potential. Congratulations!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

ARTDO International

I extend my warmest greetings to each and every one of the delegates to the 32nd ARTDO International Management & HRD Conference.

It is axiomatic that no meaningful progress is possible without a trained and well- developed workforce. Human capital development has become a pre-condition to economic growth.

As the perceptive Jack Welch of General Electric reminds us, "The ultimate source of competitive advantage is the ability of an organization to learn and rapidly to convert that learning into action."

This conference provides an effective vehicle for mutual sharing of ideas, experiences and learning methodologies. Across the years the ARTDO annual conference has built a veritable storehouse of knowledge and cutting-edge practices in human resource development.

I am glad that we have chosen Manila to be the venue of this year's conference. It was in this historic City 32 years ago that the idea of a unified approach to training and education was conceived and carried out through the formal launching of ARTDO.

It is gratifying to note that the theme of this conference highlights the critical importance of global partnership in the field of training and development.

DATO DR. THOMAS CHEE
President Emeritus

ARTDO International

On behalf of ARTDO International, welcome to our 32nd Management and HRD Conference. We hope that your attendance to this conference will be another fulfiling and meaningful experience, as all ARTDO International conferences in the past.

We designed this conference to serve as an opportunity for all of us to break boundaries together, to learn from each other's practices, experiences and research work. We also designed this event to enable us to establish rapport and networking with each other so that we can, even beyond the conference, continue to learn from each other.

May all of you find this gathering of training and development professionals a rewarding experience.

EVELYN P. LOZADA
President

ARTDO International

I am extremely pleased to welcome you to the 32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference.

The nucleus of what is now ARTDO International was formed as the upshot of the First Asian Regional Training and Development Conference held in Manila on 09 November 1974. It was attended by a core group of visionary leaders representing their respective organizations in 12 Asian countries.

Resolutely, ARTDO has forged ahead in pursuit of its vision: to promote HRD through a unified and synergistic approach.

England's Queen Elizabeth II once remarked that "Change has become a constant. The way in which you embrace it defines your future."

ARTDO's strategic architecture called not only for an incremental, but sweeping, and all- embracing change. In the aftermath of its Silver Jubilee Convention in 1998 in New Delhi, India, it finally re-invented and transformed itself into ARTDO International. It collapsed its regional boundary and began in earnest to expand its global reach.

The Philippine Society for Training and Development is hosting this annual conference for the third time. It had successfully done so in 1991, 1994 and 1996. It has established an impressive track record in mounting events of international magnitude.

This year's conference promises to be a truly productive and satisfying experience for all participants. The Program Committee has lined up a blend of learning sessions - plenary and concurrent – that forms a remarkable tapestry.

I I am confident that the combined outputs of this conference – in terms of upgraded skills, knowledge and attitudes – will further strengthen our individual and collective competencies to meet the challenges of growth in the years ahead.

BERNARDO F. OPLE
Secretary General

Welcome delegates to the 32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference. As the conference host, we in the Philippine Society for Training and Development have been enthusiastically preparing for this event.

We designed the conference to provide a whole range of learning opportunities from training fundamentals for the novices up to research presentation on innovative approaches for the more senior practitioners. In fact, the whole second day which will be held in MML Development Center is devoted to outdoor learning experiences for the more adventurous and to innovative approaches to learning for the less adventurous.

We hope that as we all further our professional development in the field of workplace learning and performance improvement, the forum will also enable us to develop new acquaintance while renewing and strengthening old friendships.

ARTHUR LUIS P. FLORENTIN
President

The 32nd ARTDO International Management and HRD Conference is a gathering of HR practitioners to find new solutions to workplace problems and craft the latest HRD techniques to respond to today's business challenges. It is a timely response to the issues confronted by training and development professionals to workplace learning and performance improvement.

The conference brings an array of esteemed and prolific resource persons in the educational sessions such as the keynote of Dr. William Rothwell and the Business Leaders Forum where delegates can learn from insights of CEOs of leading and reputable organizations. Seasoned HR consultants, academicians and practitioners will be featured in the HR Practioners' Forum, plenary sessions and the seven tracks of the concurrent sessions. Let us also meet new friends and colleagues in the networking opportunities in the conference.

We take pride in hosting this year's ARTDO International Conference. The Organizing Committee has prepared a program to meet the participants' diverse needs. Delegates can choose from a wide array of topics and activities of the conference.

We hope you will emerge from the conference more equipped with the knowledge and skills to face the current issues we face in our day to day performance of our training and development responsibilities. But more than anything else, allow me to thank you for making an investment to attend the conference as we strive to improve our craft to make a difference in our people and organizations.

CHITO C. SAN MATEO
2005 Conference Chairperson and PSTD Vice President

Sept 6 Pre-conference Workshop

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:30-8:30	Registration (for Pre-conf Workshop; Registration for Conference Proper throughout the day)
8:30-12:00	**Workshop**
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30-5:30	**Workshop**
5:30-6:00	Free time
6:00-8:00	**Welcome Cocktails**

Sept 7 Conference Day 01

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:00-8:00	Registration
8:00-9:00	Convention Opening Ceremonies
9:00-10:00	**Keynote Address** **Unified Global HRD: Breaking Boundaries** **Dr. William J. Rothwell** - Pres., Rothwell & Associates, Inc & Professor-in-Charge of Workforce Education and Development, Pennsylvania State University
10:00-10:30	AM Break
10:30-12:00	**Panel 1** **Business Leaders' Forum:** "The CEO's View of the Role of HRD and the HRD Practitioner in Achieving Organizational Effectiveness and Profitability" **Moderators:** Bopeep Franco and Gods Lanuza • **Mr. Manuettl M. Lopez** Chairman and CEO, Meralco (Philippines) • **Mr. Francis Andrews** SVP-Opns., ICTSI/Gen Mgr, MITC (US) • **Mr. Chi Yuan Lin** CEO, Taipei Fubon Bank (ROC) • **Mr. Lim Hong Tat** President & CEO, Maybank Philippines, Inc. • **Ms. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez** CEO, Philippine Daily Inquirer
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 – 3:00	Concurrent Session 1
3:00-3:30	PM Break
3:30-5:00	**Plenary 1** **International Trends on Leadership Development, Execution, and Engagement** **Mr. Pete Weaver** SVP for Leadership Solutions & Chief Learning Officer, DDI (US)
5:00-6:00	**Plenary 2** **Unified Global HRD as a Strategic Intervention: Myths and Realities of Breaking Boundaries** **Dr. Gautam Vinayshil** - Faculty, Dept of Management Studies, Indian Institute of Technology (India)
6:00-9:00	Exhibitors' Night

Sept 8 Conference Day 02

TIME	ACTIVITIES
7:30-9:30	TRAVEL TIME TO MMLDC
9:30-10:00	Welcome Refreshments
10:00-11:30	Concurrent Session 2
11:30-1:00	Lunch Break
1:00 – 2:15	**Plenary 3** **Fun@Workplace: Improving Workplace Learning and Performance** **Dr. James Y. Lin** Pres/CEO, Quality Lifeskills Quantum Intl. (US-Singapore)
2:15-2:30	Break
2:30-4:00	Concurrent Session 3
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-5:45	Concurrent Session 4
5:45-6:00	Break
6:00-6:30	**THE HIGANTES OF ANGONO & ATI-ATIHAN PARADE**
6:30-9:00	**FILIPINIANA NIGHT/ PSTD RUBY CELEBRATION (40TH ANNIVERSARY)** SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER **MRS. PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS** DEPARTMENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
9:00-10:30	Travel time to Manila Hotel

Sept 9 Conference Day 03

TIME	ACTIVITIES
8:30 – 10:00	Concurrent Session 5
10:00-10:30	AM Break
10:30-12:00	**Plenary 4** **Action Learning for Breakthrough Results in Organization** **Sonny Coloma** Faculty, Asian Institute of Management (Philippines)
12:00-1:30	Lunch Break
1:30 – 3:00	Concurrent Session 6
3:00-3:30	PM Break
3:30–5:00	**Panel 2** **HRD Professionals' Forum** "The Emerging Competencies of HRD Professionals in the Asian Region Today" Moderator: Dr. Regina Hechanova • **Mr. Peter Chee** CEO, Inst. Of Trng & Devt. ARTDO Immediate Past Pres. (Malaysia) • **Florence Ho** Training Consultant, Macau Mgnt . Assoc. (Macau) • **Mr. Mohammed T. Al-Sellemi** Executive Director for Industrial Services, Saudi Aramco (Saudi Arabia) • **Imelda H. Centeno** Senior Vice-President, Organization Development Division of United Laboratories (Philippines)
5:00–5:30	**Closing Ceremony**
6:00-11:00	**International Night & ARTDO Turnover Rites**

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Davenport, Agassi gain quarters

NEW YORK—LINDSAY DAVENPORT REACHED THE QUARTERFINALS of the US Open in straight sets Monday, while eighth-seeded Guillermo Coria needed more than 4 1/2 hours to subdue Chile's Nicolas Massu in the longest match of the tournament.

DAVENPORT: Best match since Wimbledon. AP

The No. 2-seeded Davenport took 57 minutes to dispatch 15th-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Dechy, 6-0, 6-3, while Coria needed to rally to beat Massu, 6-4, 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2, in a match that saw the two exchange words in the final set.

No. 7 Andre Agassi and fellow American James Blake also advanced.

Agassi beat back Belgium's Xavier Malisse, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 4-6, 6-2, to become the first man over 35 to reach the quarterfinals at the US Open in 14 years, while Blake upset No. 19 Tommy Robredo of Spain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-3, to claim his third seeded victim.

In other women's play, third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France defeated No. 19 Elena Likhovtseva, 6-1, 6-4, and Mary Pierce avenged her loss in the French Open final to Justine Henin-Hardenne, upsetting the seventh-seeded Belgian, 6-3, 6-4, to complete the quarterfinal field.

Davenport, who next plays No. 6 Elena Dementieva—last year's runner-up and a 6-4, 6-3 winner over No. 11 Patty Schnyder—hasn't lost a set since the tournament began, hasn't had a match last longer than 71 minutes and has lost only 18 games in four rounds.

"Today was the best match I've played since Wimbledon," Davenport said.

Dementieva has a clear recollection of the first time she played Davenport.

"I've played her so many times," Dementieva said. "I remember my first time, playing in New York in Madison Square Garden, first round. When I saw the draw, I was almost like crying. I said, 'Ma, I want to go home.'"

Coria required 4:32 to prevail over Massu, breaking the Chilean twice in the final set. He celebrated by thrusting his arms upward, bending to one knee and putting a finger in the air to resemble Chilean and former River Plate striker Marcelo Salas, and hopping the net to shake Massu's hand.

The handshake appeared more like a slap after the two exchanged words during the changeover following the third game of the final set.

Coria gestured at Massu from his chair, causing the Chilean to walk toward him. An official stepped between them, Massu did not encroach past the umpire's chair, and eventually sat down while Coria continued to speak to him.

"There were no words exchanged," Coria said. "I had an injury with three of my toenails, he implied that I was faking it, and I told him to go sit. In 4 1/2 hours, that was it. There were no bad words." *AP*

Browne ends drought

BROWNE: Finally AFP

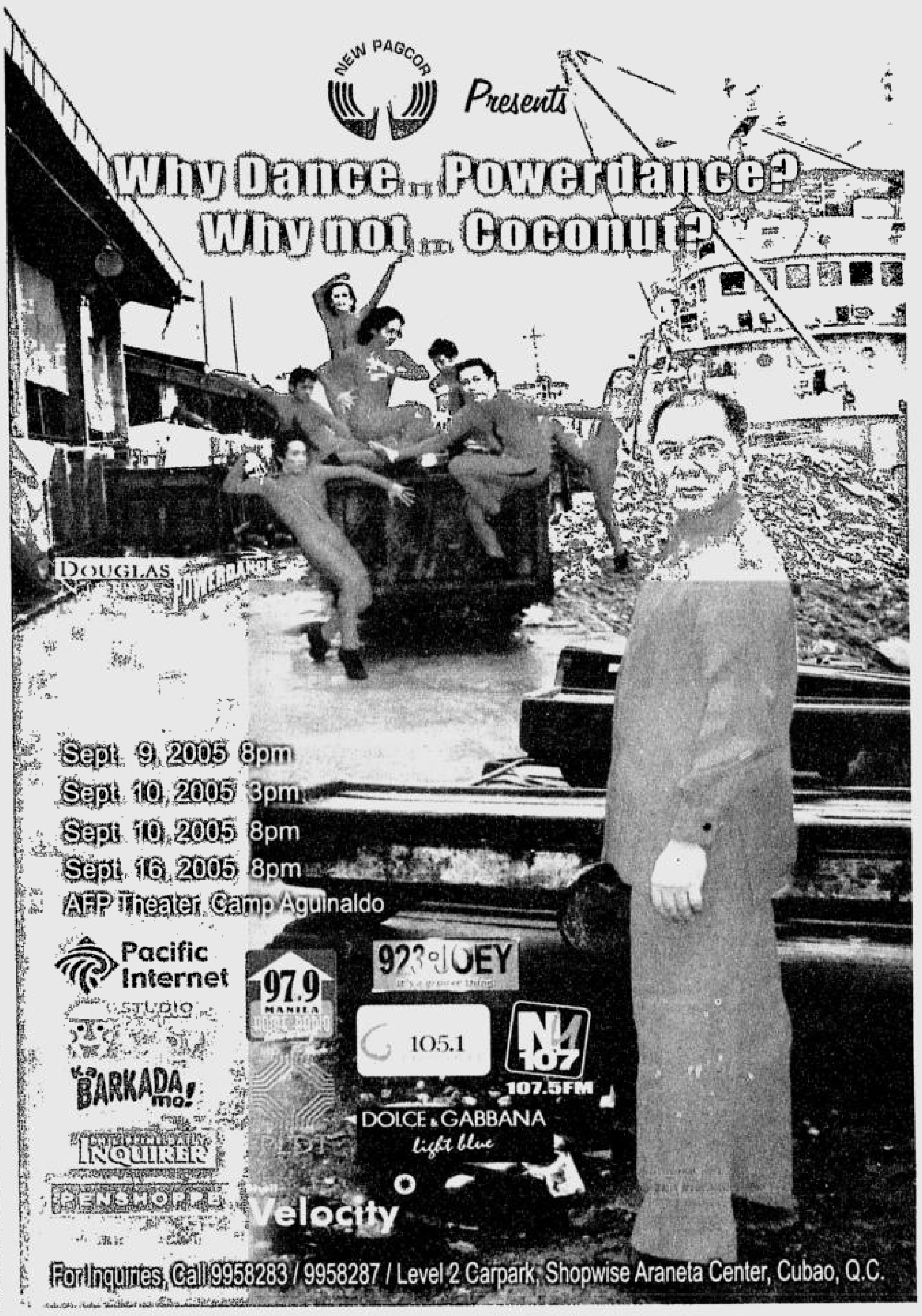
NORTON, MASSACHUSETTS—Olin Browne closed with a 4-under 67 on Monday and emerged from a five-man pack to win the Deutsche Bank Classic for his first US PGA Tour victory since 1999.

Browne built a three-shot advantage on the back nine. And with Jason Bohn closing fast, he holed a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to restore his cushion.

Bohn needed an eagle on the par-5 18th to force a playoff, but his fairway metal from the right rough sailed to the right of the green, and his chip never had a chance. Bohn settled for a birdie and a 68 to finish one shot behind.

"It's been so long," Browne said. "I'm speechless."

Browne finished at 14-under 270 and earned $990,000, more than he had made in any of his 11 previous years on the PGA Tour. More importantly, the win ended a six-year drought and gave him a two-year exemption on tour. *AP*



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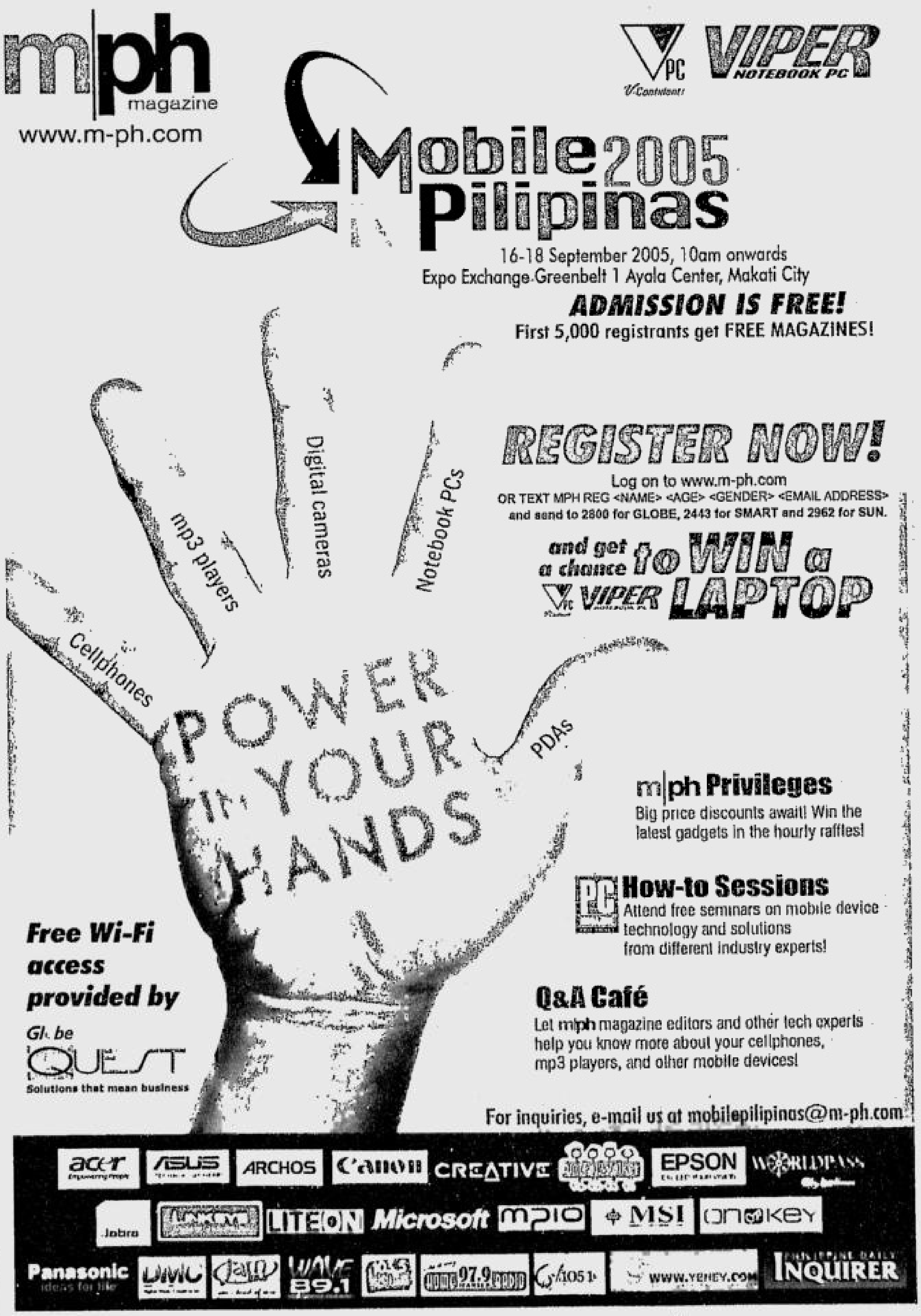

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

'Maximo' blossoms

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

NATHAN Lopez as "Maxi"

A FILIPINO DIGITAL FILM WON THE GOLDEN Zenith award in the First Films category of the 29th Montreal World Film Festival.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros)," directed by Aureaus Solito, written by Michiko Yamamoto and produced by ufo Pictures, was a product of the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival, where it received the Special Jury Prize last July.

The Montreal film fest, held from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, screened over 340 movies from 70 countries.

Cast of newbies

"Maximo" was the lone digital film in its section that included Jan Martin Scharf and Arne Nolting's "Truth or Dare" (Wahrheit Oder Pflicht) of Germany, which got the Silver, and Hunter Richards' "London" of the US, which won the Bronze.

Ironically, the cast of the Philippine entry consisted mainly of neophytes, while the American film boasted Hollywood stars Jessica Biel and Leelee Sobieski.

Yamamoto, who is in Manila, told INQUIRER Entertainment: "We feel fulfilled. We really worked hard."

Yamamoto, who is of Japanese and Filipino descent, also wrote the screenplay of the internationally acclaimed "Magnifico."

"It's a good opportunity for independent films to reach more audiences," she said.

Aside from being an awards frontrunner, "Maxi" was also a crowd favorite.

In an e-mail, Raymond Lee, ufo Pictures line producer, said that "Maximo" had an encore screening on the same day as the awards ceremony.

"It was our fourth after three wonderful screenings," Lee wrote from Montreal. "The audience response was truly touching."

"Raymond told us people were crying and laughing at the screenings," added Yamamoto.

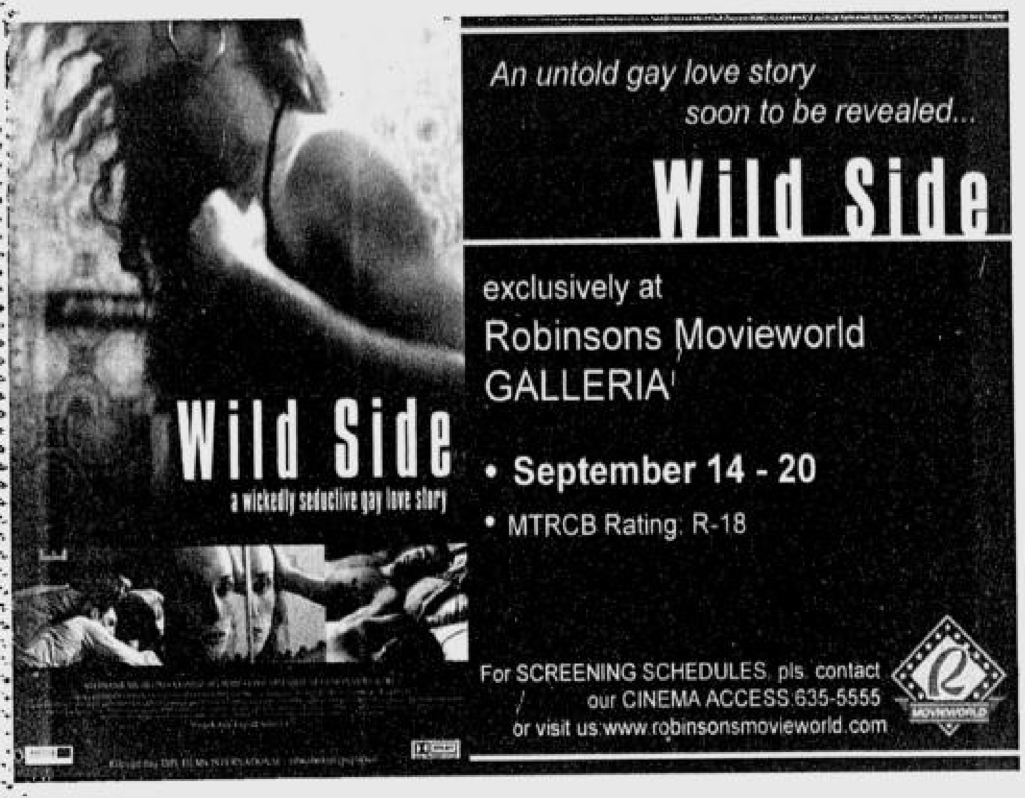
Excited, ecstatic

Laurice Guillen, head of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (a Cinemalaya organizer), was "ecstatic." "It's exciting. This international honor came just two months after Cinemalaya," she said.

Robbie Tan, a Cinemalaya monitoring committee member, said: "This is a great achievement for us Filipinos. The executive committee is thankful to Tony Boy Cojuangco for funding Cinemalaya."

"Maximo" got a lot of help from other supporters like Joji Alonso of MLR Films (who subsidized its transfer from mini-DV to Betacam SP). The filmmakers themselves held three screenings in UP Diliman to raise funds for their Montreal trip.

"The UP screenings—all packed—raised almost P100,000," Yamamoto confirmed. "But we still have a lot of unpaid loans!"



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3 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RED EYE
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 5433994
1 SEX & ZEN
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
6 THE CAVE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 PUSANG GALA
3
4 (DTS)

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 (DTS ES) VALIANT
4 SKELETON KEY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 SKELETON KEY
3 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
4 LONGEST YARD
5

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 LONGEST YARD
3 (DOLBY) VALIANT
4 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LONGEST YARD
2 BEWITCHED
3 EVIL EYE
4 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT

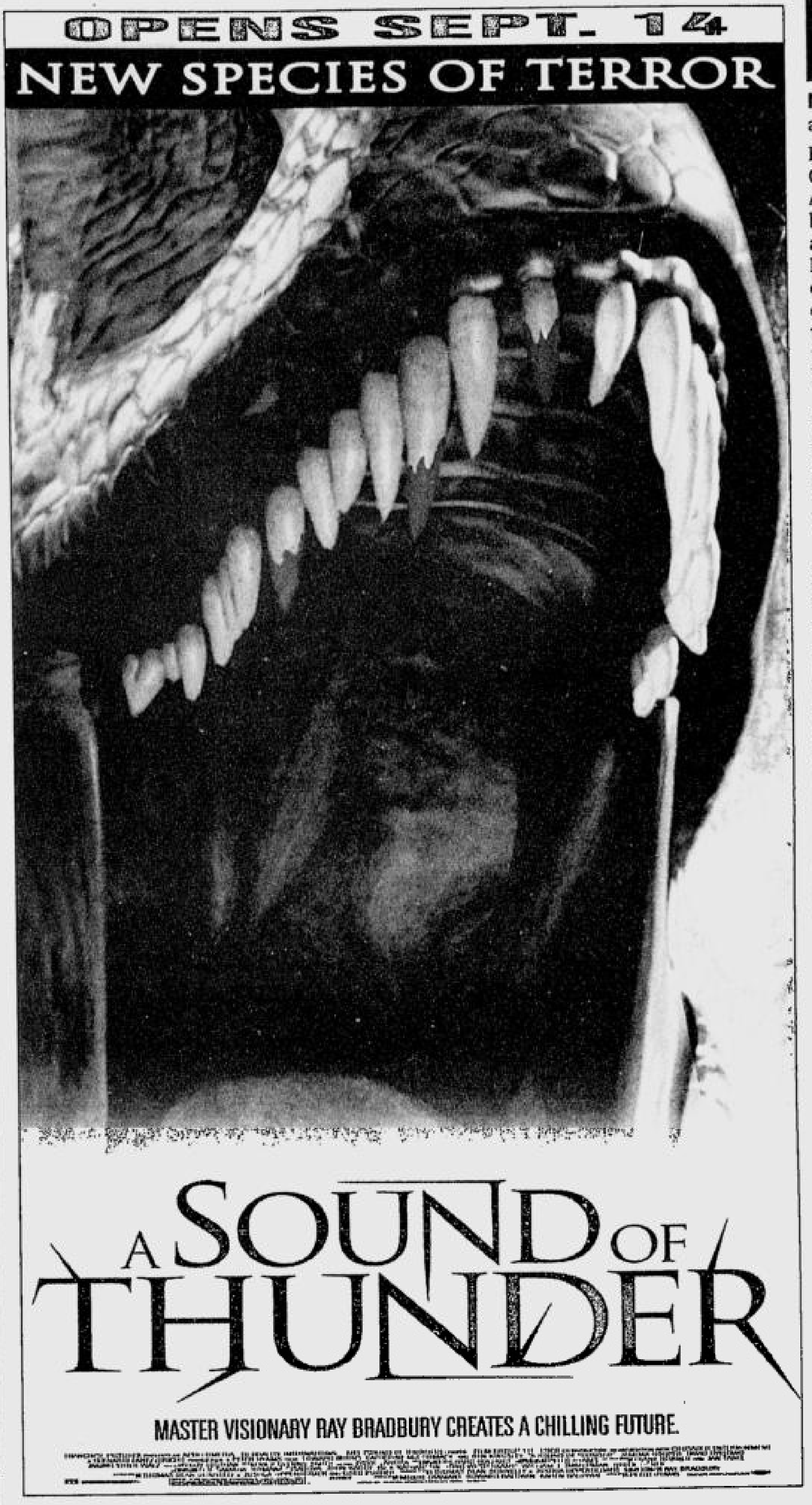
starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE
2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 CRASH
3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED
4 (DTS) THE GREAT RAID

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 MUST LOVE DOGS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PUSANG GALA
2 EVIL EYE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



OPENS SEPT. 14
NEW SPECIES OF TERROR
A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
IN THE TRADITION OF "AMERICAN PIE" COMES THE GROSS-OUT COMEDY OF THE YEAR.
CHRIS KLEIN BRENDAN FEHR
THE LONG WEEKEND
TWO BROTHERS. ONE WEEKEND. AND A WHOLE LOT OF SEX.
OPENS TODAY

THE BROTHERS GRIMM:

The gorgeous Monica Bellucci stars as The enchanting Mirror Queen in "The Brothers Grimm"

Adventure & Enchantment comes to life!

Acclaimed director **Terry Gilliam** and screenwriter **Ehren Kruger** have conjured up a magical film that trumps all the *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of The Rings* movies in **"The Brothers Grimm"**.

Will (*Matt Damon*) and **Jacob** (*Heath Ledger*) are famous in Germany as demon slayers. They save poor villages from frightful witches and troublemaking demons. The horrible tales villagers tell are all written down by Jacob, who is the keeper of the records. They are skillful in destroying witches and freeing villages since they have two assistants: one who works the illusions and the other who plays the aggrieved demon. They may be imposters, but the villagers are always satisfied.

The French, newly occupying Germany, catch the brothers and instruct them to go to the village of Marbaden where little girls have gone missing. The villagers are certain there is an enchanted forest swallowing up their children.

The brothers are not prepared for what they uncover. The forest is really enchanted and there really is a curse. There is a creature-monster kidnapping little girls. **Angelika**, (*Lena Headley*) a self-sufficient hunter, reluctantly helps the brothers navigate through the forest. She has lost two sisters to the sinister forest curse. The curse appears to be a love enchantment and the girls are being fed to **The Mirror Queen** (*Monica Bellucci*) to bring her back to life. Will they succeed in their quest?

Produced at a cost of over **$120** from **Miramax**, the movie will enchant both young and old.

The Real Brothers Grimm - Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm

The Brothers Grimm are well-known for publishing collections of enchanted fairy tales in Germany during their lifetimes.

English translations of the 7th edition (1857) remain popular, and they exist now predominantly as highly expurgated and saccharine versions intended for children, even though the folk tales that the Grimms had collected had not been previously considered stories for children.

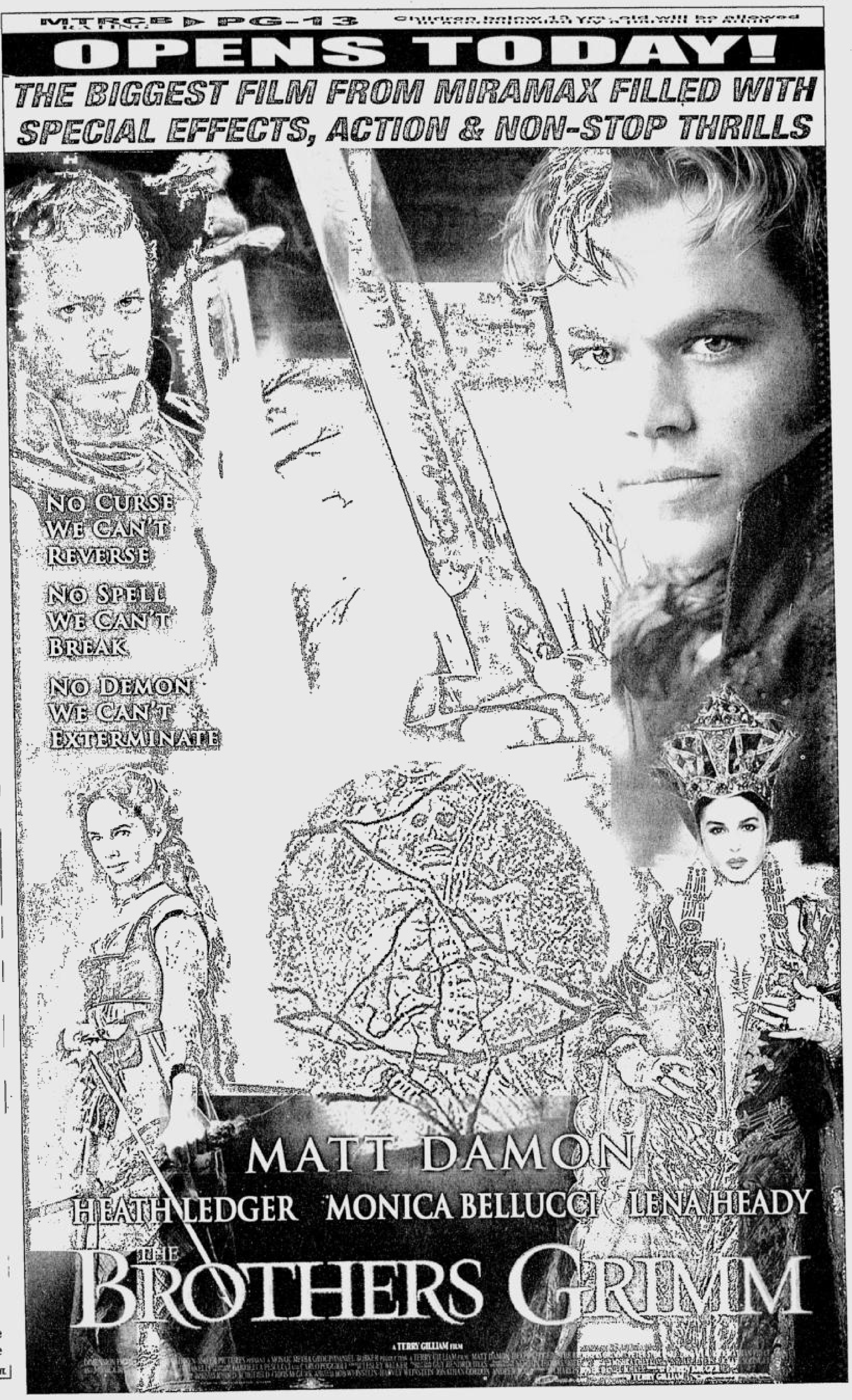
Selection of Fairy Tales by the Brothers Grimm:

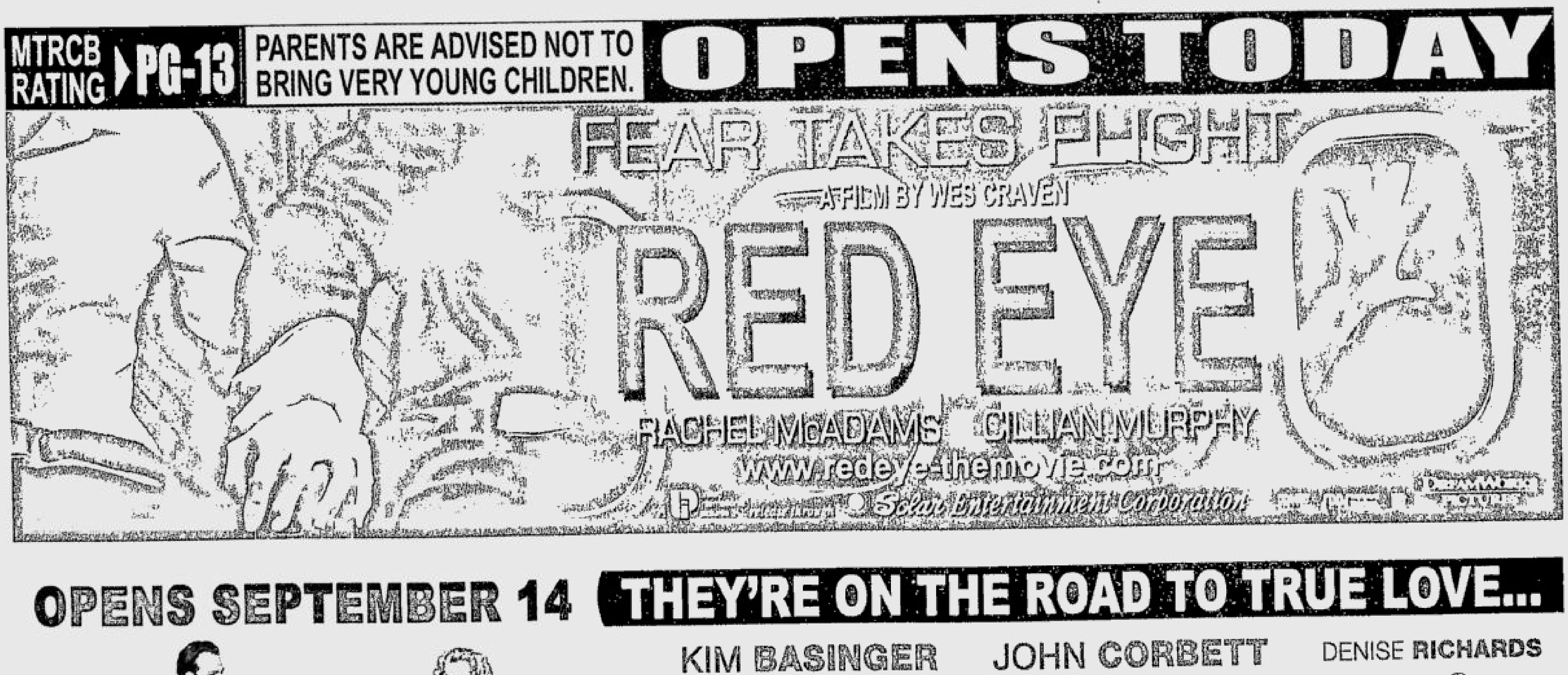
The Pied Piper of Hamelin
Little Red Riding Hood
Bluebeard
The Frog Prince
Hansel and Gretel
Rapunzel
Snow White
Cinderella
The Golden Goose
Rumpelstiltskin
Sleeping Beauty
Tom Thumb

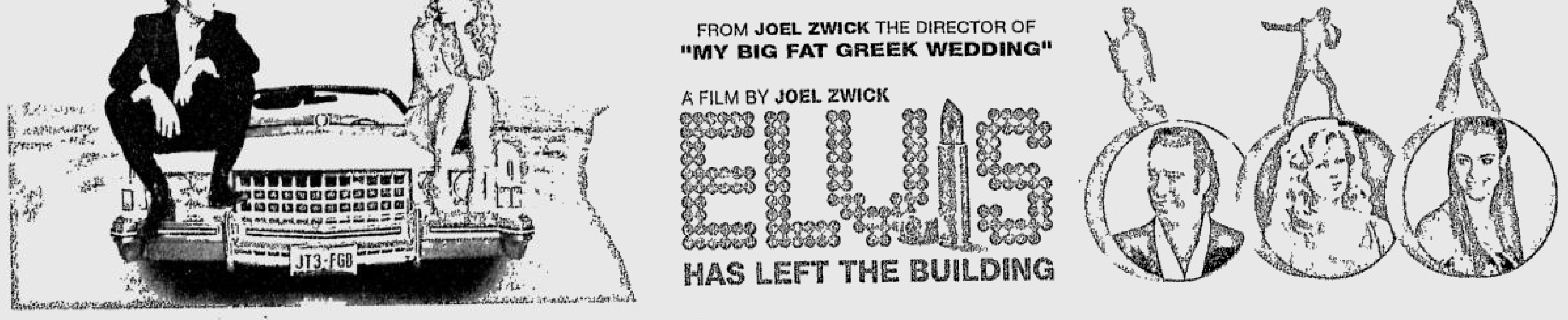
Their Works:

In 2002, the Brothers Grimm were depicted on the 1000 Deutsche Mark note – Germany's largest available denomination in circulation.

ADVT.


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
OPENS TODAY!
THE BIGGEST FILM FROM MIRAMAX FILLED WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS, ACTION & NON-STOP THRILLS
NO CURSE WE CAN'T REVERSE
NO SPELL WE CAN'T BREAK
NO DEMON WE CAN'T EXTERMINATE
MATT DAMON
HEATH LEDGER
MONICA BELLUCCI
LENA HEADY
THE BROTHERS GRIMM
A TERRY GILLIAM FILM


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
PARENTS ARE ADVISED NOT TO BRING VERY YOUNG CHILDREN.
OPENS TODAY
FEAR TAKES FLIGHT
A FILM BY WES CRAVEN
RED EYE
RACHEL McADAMS
CILLIAN MURPHY
www.redeye-themovie.com
Solar Entertainment Corporation


OPENS SEPTEMBER 14
THEY'RE ON THE ROAD TO TRUE LOVE...
KIM BASINGER
JOHN CORBETT
DENISE RICHARDS
FROM JOEL ZWICK THE DIRECTOR OF "MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING"
A FILM BY JOEL ZWICK
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HAS LEFT THE BUILDING
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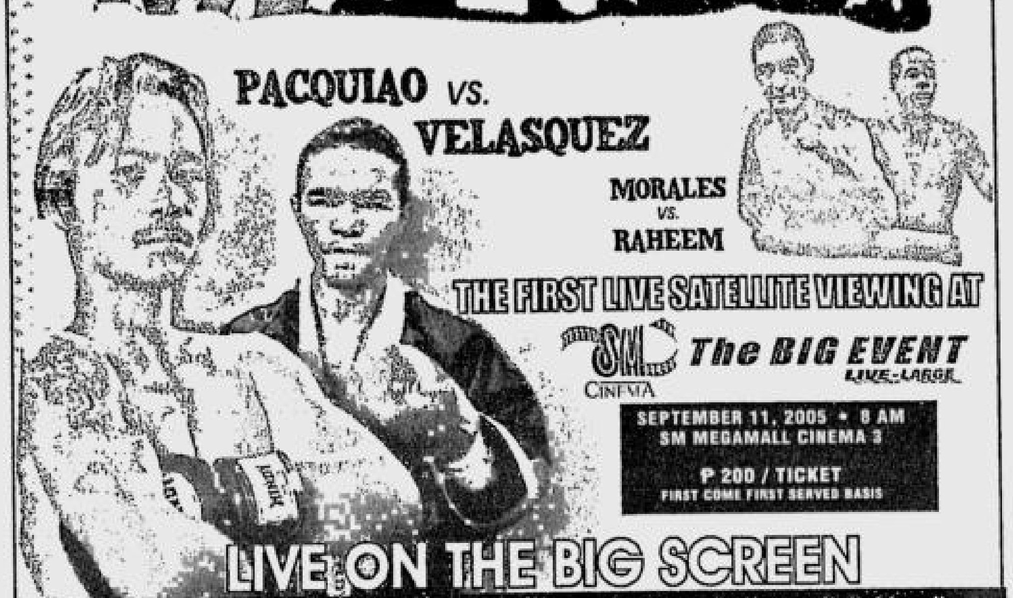

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Fil-American Idol
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Cinema 10

LIVE CONCERT
Martin Nievera
I SING FOR YOU
September 10, 2005
Saturday • 8:30pm
SM Southmall
Cinema 3

LIVE MUSICAL
Trumpets
THE LITTLE MERMAID
September 3-9, 2005
SM Megamall
Cinema 10

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 RED EYE
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:30/05:00/07:00
08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:25END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
12:30FS/01:00MF/03:35/06:15
08:20LFS/09:00LFS/11:00END

MEGAMALL
THE CAVE
10:45FS/11:10MF/01:15/03:20/05:25/07:30
09:10LFS/09:40LFS/11:20END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CAVE
12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
11:55FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10
09:10FS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 RED EYE
11:50FS/12:00MF/01:54/03:18/05:45/07:36
09:03LFS/09:30LFS/10:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE GREAT RAID
DUKES OF HAZZARD
6 RED EYE
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
8 LONGEST YARD
9 LONG WEEKEND
10 LITTLE MERMAID
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
LAZARUS CHILD
D' ANOTHERS
THE GREAT RAID
4 RED EYE
LONGEST YARD
6 THE CAVE
BROTHERS GRIMM
SKY HIGH
9 LONG WEEKEND
10 EVIL EYES
11 DUKES OF HAZZARD
12 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM NORTH EDSA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 THE CAVE
3 LONGEST YARD
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 SKY HIGH
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 RED EYE

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 SKY HIGH
BROTHERS GRIMM
4 THE CAVE
5 LONG WEEKEND
DUKES OF HAZZARD
RED EYE
8 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
10 SKELETON KEY
11 EVIL EYES
12 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY STA MESA
RED EYE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
THE CAVE
4 SKY HIGH
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 LONGEST YARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
7 LONGEST YARD
8 DUKES OF HAZZARD
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 SKELETON KEY

SM SAN LAZARO
RED EYE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
THE CAVE
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 SKYHIGH
6 LONGEST YARD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 THE CAVE
RED EYE
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY BICUTAN
RED EYE
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
THE CAVE
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
LONGEST YARD
2 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
THE GREAT RAID
4 SKELETON KEY
5 SKY HIGH
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY BACOOR
DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 SKY HIGH
3 RED EYE
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 THE CAVE
LONGEST YARD
8 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
RED EYE
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 SKY HIGH

SM CITY LUCENA
MUST LOVE DOGS
2 BEWITCHED
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 RED EYE
2 BEWITCHED
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY MARILAO
THE GREAT RAID
SKY HIGH
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 VALIANT

SM CITY BATANGAS
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
4 ARAHAN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 THE CAVE
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 RED EYE
4 BEWITCHED
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
WEDDING CRASHERS
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY ILOILO
LISENSYADONG KAMAO
RESERVED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 ARAHAN
6 VALIANT
RESEVED
8 BEWITCHED

SM CITY DAVAO
1 VALAINT
2 ICE PRINCESS
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 SKELETON KEY
5 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
6 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 MAN OF THE HOUSE
4 SKELETON KEY

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

BROTHERS GRIMM

THE LONG WEEKEND

Be the first to watch these new movies at SM Cinema!

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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CINEMA 1 ONE LAST DANCE PG13
CINEMA 2 SKY HIGH GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 THE LONG WEEKEND PG13
CINEMA 4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG13
CINEMA 5 RED EYE PG13

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MUSIC MUSEUM
Sept 15,22,23,24 JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" 9PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

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ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

RED EYE 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA ADMISSION P299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249 RED EYE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
THE BROS. GRIMM 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20	
THE LONG WEEKEND 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20	LONGEST YARD 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	SKELETON KEY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
LISENSYADONG KAMAO 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10	SKY HIGH 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① LISENSYADONG KAMAO 1:35 / 3:45 / 5:55 / 8:05	④ THE BROS. GRIMM 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
② THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	⑤ SKY HIGH 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
③ RED EYE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION
September 7 Wednesday 2pm
THE CASCADES ENCORE
September 9 Friday 8pm

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MTRCB ▶ PG-13 | A WARNING TO PARENTS BRINGING-IN CHILDREN BELOW 13 YRS. OLD: THE FILM CONTAINS TREMENDOUS HORROR AND BLOODY SCENES IN FIGHTING THE INHUMAN CREATURES

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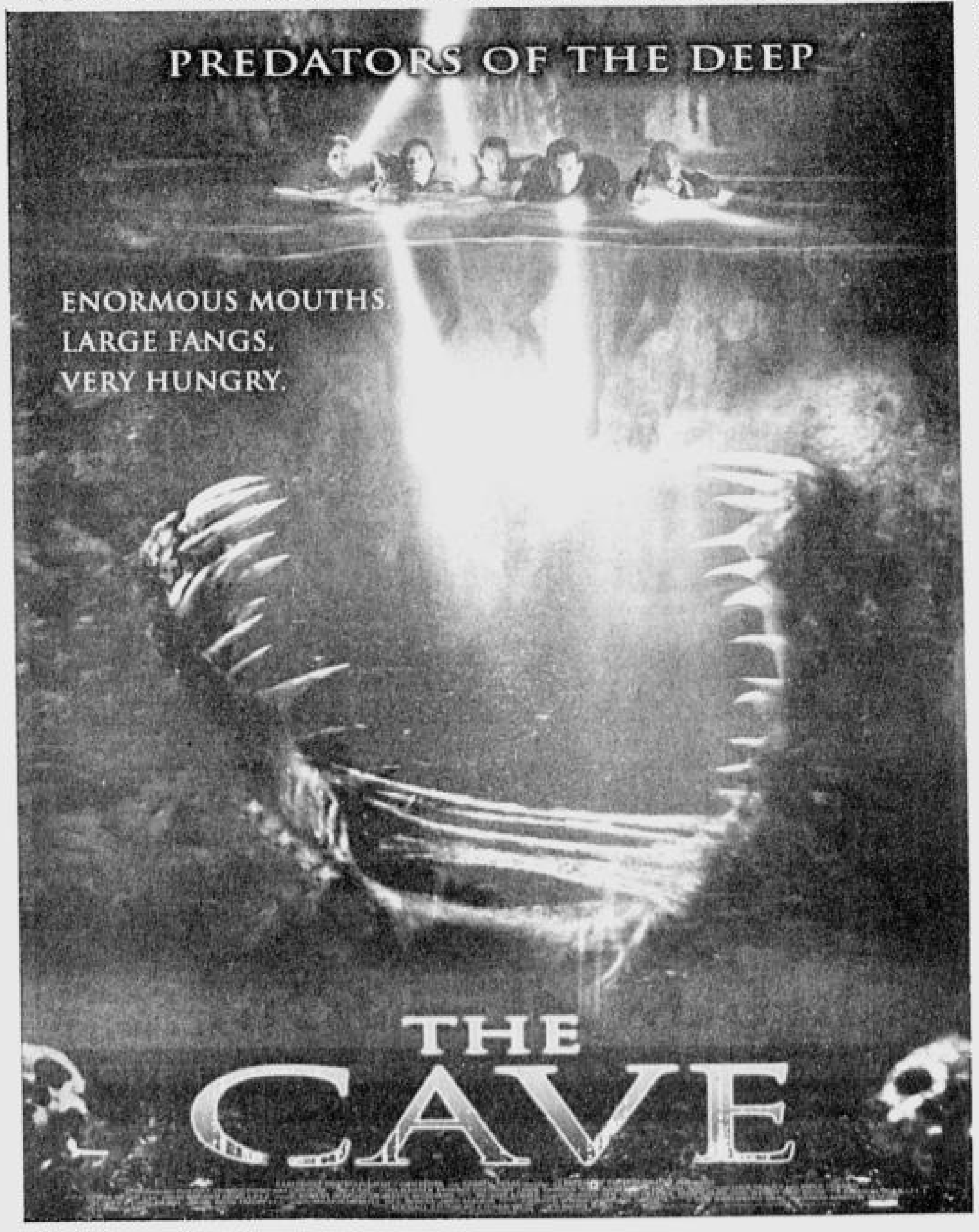
PREDATORS OF THE DEEP
ENORMOUS MOUTHS.
LARGE FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE

Travolta helps 'Katrina' victims

METAIRIE, LOUISIANA—ACTOR JOHN TRAvolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, flew in their own private jet Monday to deliver five tons of food for victims of Hurricane "Katrina."

Travolta, an experienced pilot, flew the supplies to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, then toured the flooded city of New Orleans and visited rescue workers and shelters for evacuees. The two movie stars also brought along 400 doses of tetanus vaccines for rescuers.

The star of "Saturday Night Fever" and "Pulp Fiction" said he was coordinating with Oprah Winfrey to get even more relief for the more than a million people affected by one of the worst storms in US history.

"That's our job today," he said. "We're hoping this time we're effective." At the Jefferson Parish sheriff's command center, the two stars posed for pictures and thanked Church of Scientology volunteers administering tetanus shots to rescue workers. Both actors are scientologists.

At one point, Travolta, 51, spoke quietly with Jefferson Parish Sheriff Harry Lee, then embraced him. Preston, 42, followed suit, with tears in her eyes.

"They've had such great loss," she said.

Travolta is the latest in a stream of sports, literary and entertainment celebrities to reach out to the victims of Katrina, the worst-ever storm to hit the United States. *AFP*

SHERYL Crow with Lance Armstrong

Crow to wed cyclist

WASHINGTON—SEVen-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong is engaged to marry rock star Sheryl Crow, a spokesperson for the cyclist confirmed Monday.

No details of the wedding were released, although the spokesperson said a spring wedding was likely.

The couple met at a charity event in October 2003 and began dating a short time later. The testicular cancer survivor has three children from his first marriage. It will be the first marriage for Crow, 43, who has previously been linked with rock star Eric Clapton and actor Owen Wilson.

Armstrong, 33, took cycling enthusiast President George W. Bush on a 17-mile (27 km) workout last month.

Crow, a former backing singer with Michael Jackson, has won nine Grammy Awards since breaking through in 1993. The singer/songwriter, best known for such hits as "All I Wanna Do" and "If It Makes You Happy," will release her fifth studio album, "Wildflower," on Sept. 13. *Reuters*

THE EDITING OF SEVERAL INTENSE SEQUENCES IS COMMENDABLE... WE CAN'T WAIT FOR SOME TRUTHS TO BE REVEALED...WATCH IT TWICE.
OLIVER M. PULUMBARIT - Philippine Daily Inquirer

4TH WEEK

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE." – Yahoo Movies
THE SKELETON KEY
FEARING IS BELIEVING
Kate Hudson Gena Rowlands
Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt
FROM THE WRITER OF THE RING
Solar Entertainment Corporation
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Bayang wants a baby

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

SINGER-musician Bayang Barrios, seven weeks on the family way, is taking a break from performing due to her delicate pregnancy.

She said the ultrasound test that she took last Aug. 25 showed that the fetus already had a heartbeat, and that there was some internal bleeding. Had it not been for the early detection, Bayang said, she could have miscarried, especially since there was no sign that anything was wrong.

"I actually feel strong and healthy. I'm not having morning sickness or cravings. I even had a fight with Mike (Villegas, her husband) when he told me to slow down. I really thought I could continue performing," she told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview.

"I cried when my doctor ordered me to stay away from gigs for about two months. I still can't accept that to this day," confessed the 37-year-old artist who became known as a member of Joey Ayala's band, Ang Bagong Lumad, before establishing a successful solo

BAYANG/ A2-2

BARRIOS: "I cried when I had to slow down."

OPENING TODAY

Lisensyadong Kamao

Stars Manny Pacquiao, Eddie Garcia, Aubrey Miles
Directed by Tony Bernal

Produced by Violeta Sevilla of the multi-awarded movie "Magnifico," the Manny Pacquiao starrer opens three days before Pacman's real-life championship bout with Mexican boxer Hector Velasquez. As you read this, the Filipino boxer is in the US training like Russell Crowe in the movie "Cinderella Man" which opens next week. "Lisensyadong Kamao" was supposed to open on or about the same time. Uh, Cinderella Man vs Pacman? Personally, we prefer "Million Dollar Baby."

The Brothers Grimm

Stars Matt Damon, Heath Ledger, Monica Bellucci
Directed by Terry Gilliam

Roger Ebert wrote in his Aug. 26 review for the Chicago Sun-Times:

"Terry Gilliam's 'The Brothers Grimm' is a work of limitless invention, but it is invention without pattern, chasing itself around the screen without finding a plot. Watching it is a little exhausting. If the images in the movie had been put to the service of a story we could care about, he might have had something. But the movie seems like a style in search of a purpose... Gilliam has always been a director who fills the screen with rich visual spectacle. In 'Brazil' and '12 Monkeys' and 'The Adventures of Baron Munchausen,' in the past and in the future, his world is always hallucinatory in its richness of detail... [this] movie [however], for all of its fantastic striving, stays on the screen and fails to engage our imagination."

Lords of Dogtown

Stars Heath Ledger, Emile Hirsch, Johnny Knoxville
Directed by Catherine Hardwicke
Exclusively at Ayala cinemas

In his review for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Bob Townsend wrote: "In her well-regarded directorial debut, 'Thirteen,' Catherine Hardwicke ditched conventional narrative for a series of anecdotes choreographed with manic camera work that somehow worked to tell the harrowing tale of an out-of-control teenage girl. Hardwicke tries some of those same moves in her second effort, 'Lords of Dogtown.' But maybe because most of the material in this movie about the pubescent pioneers of radical skateboarding is derived from a 2001 documentary, 'Dogtown and Z-Boys,' much of the drama gets wiped out in a wandering confusion of characters, dates and places... And while the camera closely records all the wild-style action, revved with a '70s hard-rock soundtrack, the inner and outer lives of these really interesting kids are finally reduced to a string of clichés, with situations and dialogue that range from formulaic to laughable."

Red Eye

Stars Rachel McAdams, Cillian Murphy, Brian Cox
Directed by Wes Craven

In his Aug. 19 review for the Boston Globe, Wesley Morris wrote: "In Wes Craven's 'Red Eye,' Rachel McAdams, that nice young lady so lusted after in 'The Notebook' and 'Wedding Crashers,' plays a nice young lady who is forced to get in touch with the tough cookie she played in 'Mean Girls.' It takes a while, and the wait is not really worth it. But that's not her fault. 'Red Eye' is a one-trick action thriller that feels like a poor cousin of an episode of '24.' Call it '12.' McAdams plays Lisa, an extremely efficient luxury hotel manager who's catching the red-eye flight to Miami, where there is about to be trouble... [She catches] the the attention of... a thin bloke with stubble and a shaggy haircut. He's played by Cillian Murphy, the Irishman who was Scarecrow in 'Batman Begins.' But, alas, there is no subtext, finesse, or wit in Carl Ellsworth's screenplay, which aspires to be as fun to watch as a paperback potboiler is to read. For that, the movie needs frills, and 'Red Eye' has virtually none. In the last act, Murphy is entertainingly forced to wear an ascot and speak in a rasp, committing what seems like a fey impression of Craven's Freddy Krueger."

The Long Weekend

Stars Brendan Fehr, Chris Klein
Directed by Pat Holden

A comedy about two brothers, uptight Ed and playboy Cooper. Ed has a weekend to save his career, but Cooper has other plans for the weekend—to help his stressed-out brother get lucky with the ladies.

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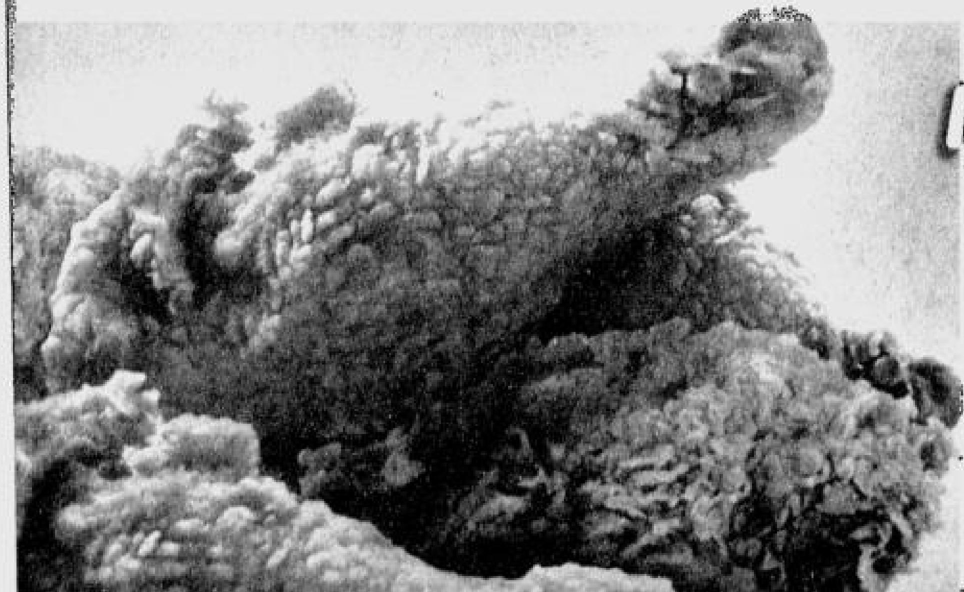

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DID YOU KNOW...

Although **Dante Mendoza's** "Masahista" missed the London Film Festival deadline by a week, programmer **Tony Rayns** was so impressed with the movie that he included it in the Vancouver Film Fest and is recommending it to the London Gay and Lesbian Film Fest in March next year, says **Ferdie Lapuz**, international distributor of "Masahista."

Weepy fairy tale

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

RON HOWARD IS A CAPABLE DIrector with a penchant for big-screen dramas. He does it again with the rags-to-riches tale of American boxer Jim Braddock in "Cinderella Man," which stars Oscar winners Russell Crowe and Renée Zellweger. It's a certified manipulative weeper, but you can't help but enjoy it because of the duo's hyper-charged performances.

CROWE and Zellwegger in a certified tearjerker

Set during the Depression, the film details the struggles and sacrifices of the Braddock family. Impoverished but undefeated, Jim, a cornucopia of emotional opportunities for Crowe, tries to reclaim his old lightweight boxer status to give his wife and children better lives. The unemployed and hopeless, understandably, are unified into forgetting their financial woes through Braddock, champion of the masses, who has to withstand and prevail over the pounding prowess of younger, stronger boxers.

WEEPY/ A2-4

Bayang wants a baby

From page A2-1

career. She won the 2003 Metropop Song Festival for her composition, "Malayo Man, Malapit Din," which has become the theme song of the GMA 7 program, "Pinoy Abroad."

Bayang had a last public performance Tuesday last week at the UP Theater. "I was so careful with my movements, that I ended up dancing with just my hands," she said, adding that she had cancelled even her gigs at Conspiracy, where she's part owner.

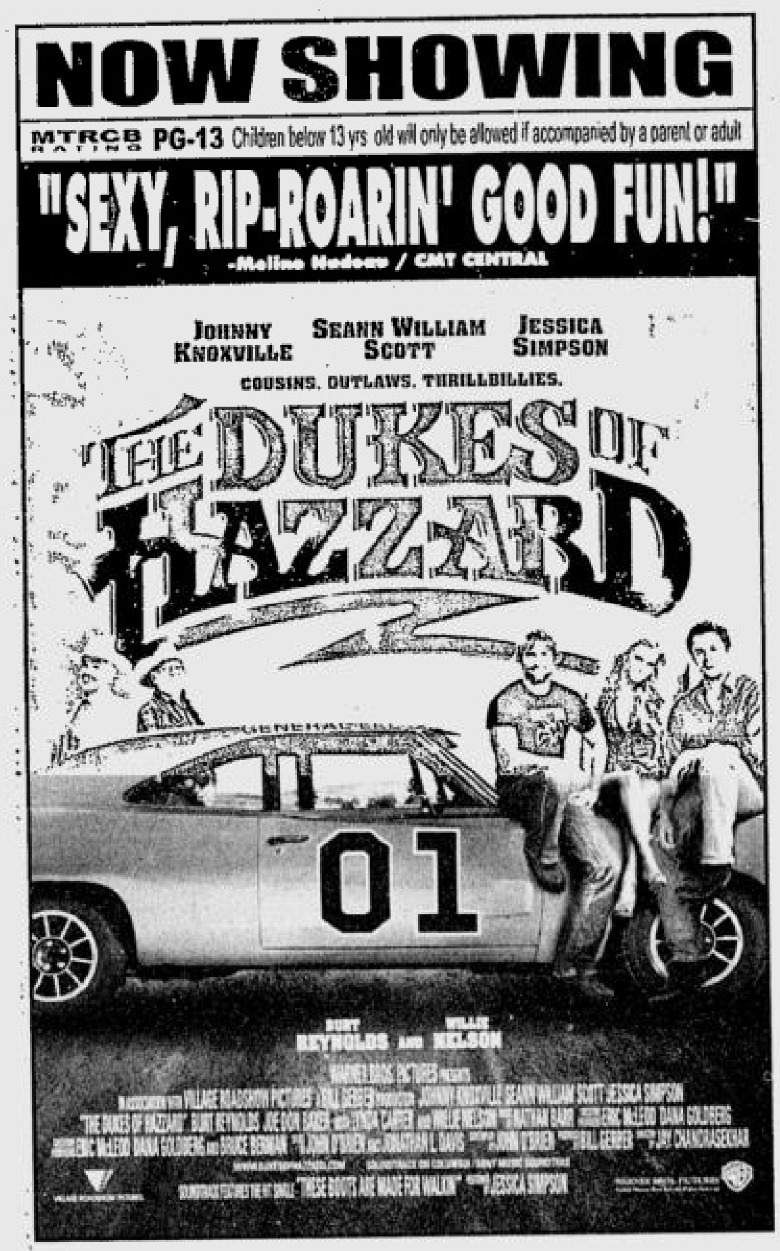
However, she said, the sacrifice still did not compare to the joy that she felt when she found out she was pregnant for the first time. "I've been taking a home pregnancy test every month since the start of the year, but I was still taken by surprise. I was in Davao at the time for the Kadayawan Festival."

Bayang said she was set to take another ultrasound test in two weeks to see if her condition has improved.

If she delivers a girl, she said, she would call her Mayumi. If it's a boy, he'd be named Alon, the title of her latest album.

Bayang married Mike, also a musician and songwriter, in June 2002 after being together on and off for 11 years.

> It's a difficult pregnancy, but she's determined to see it through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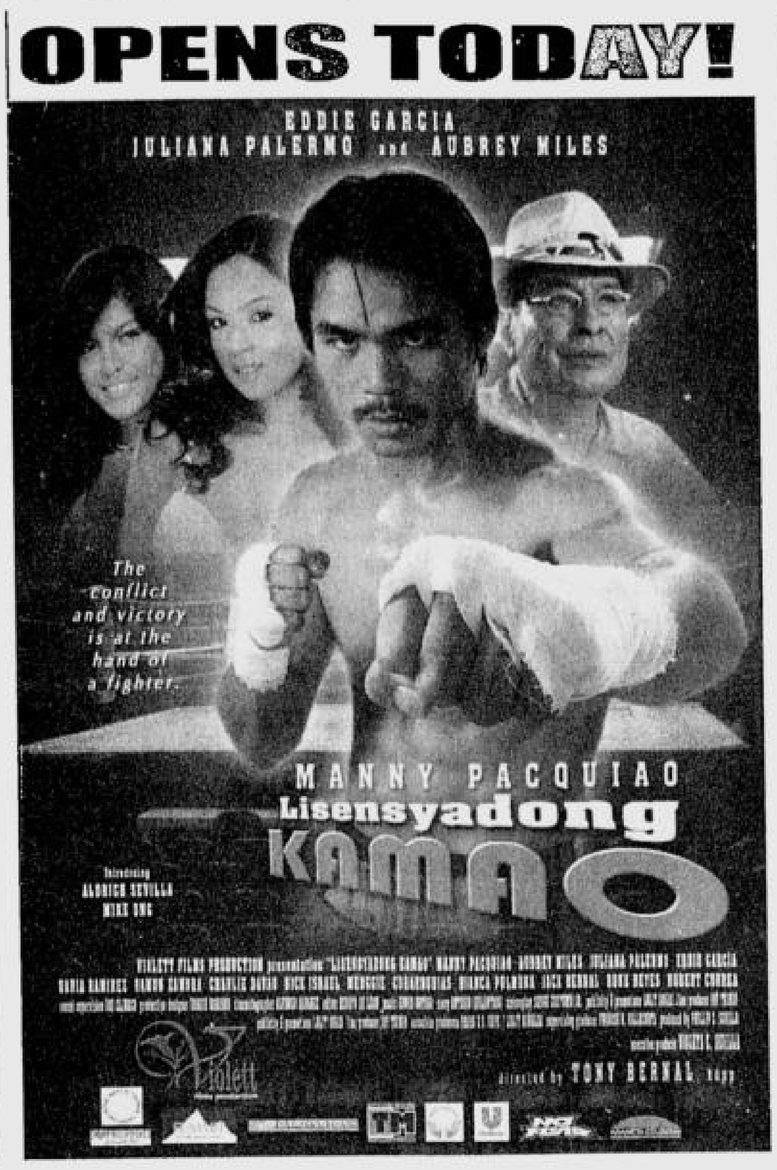
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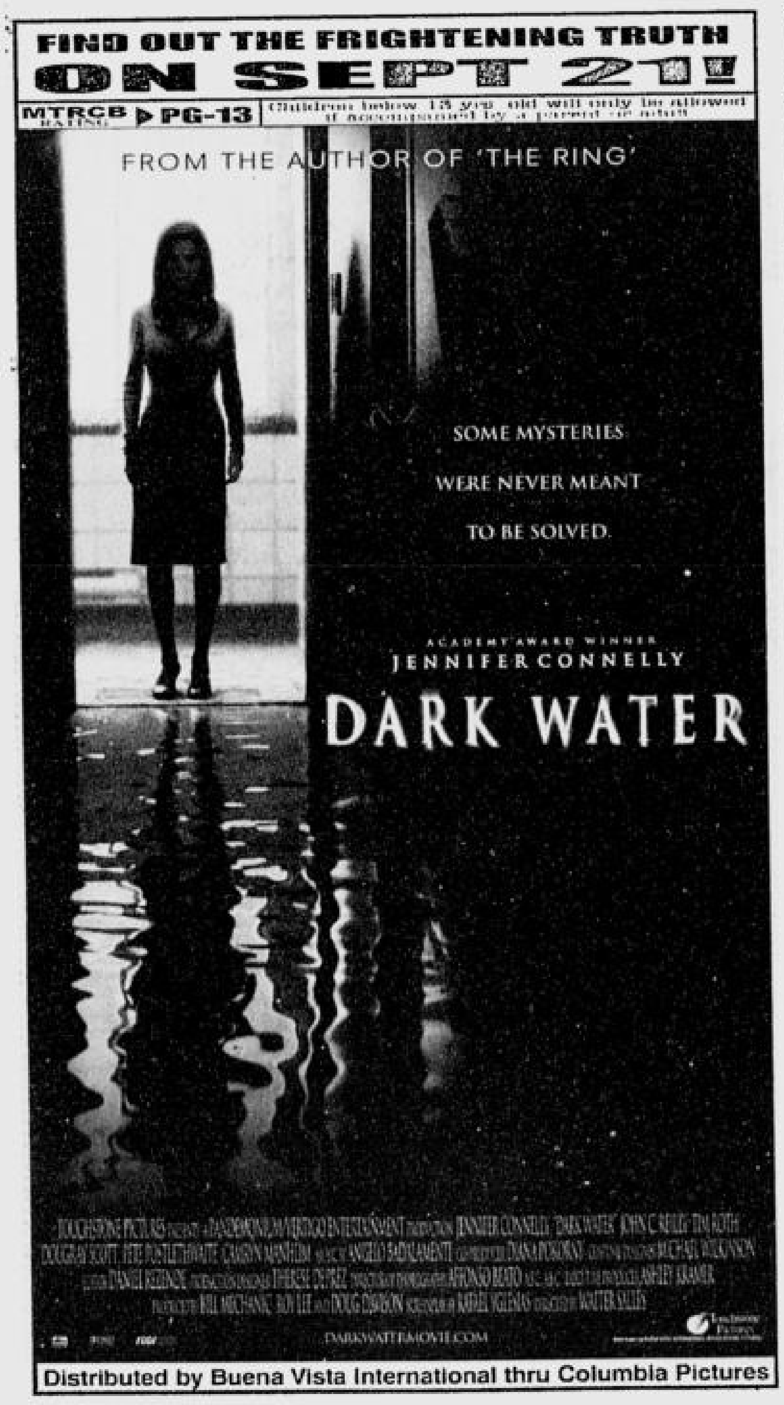
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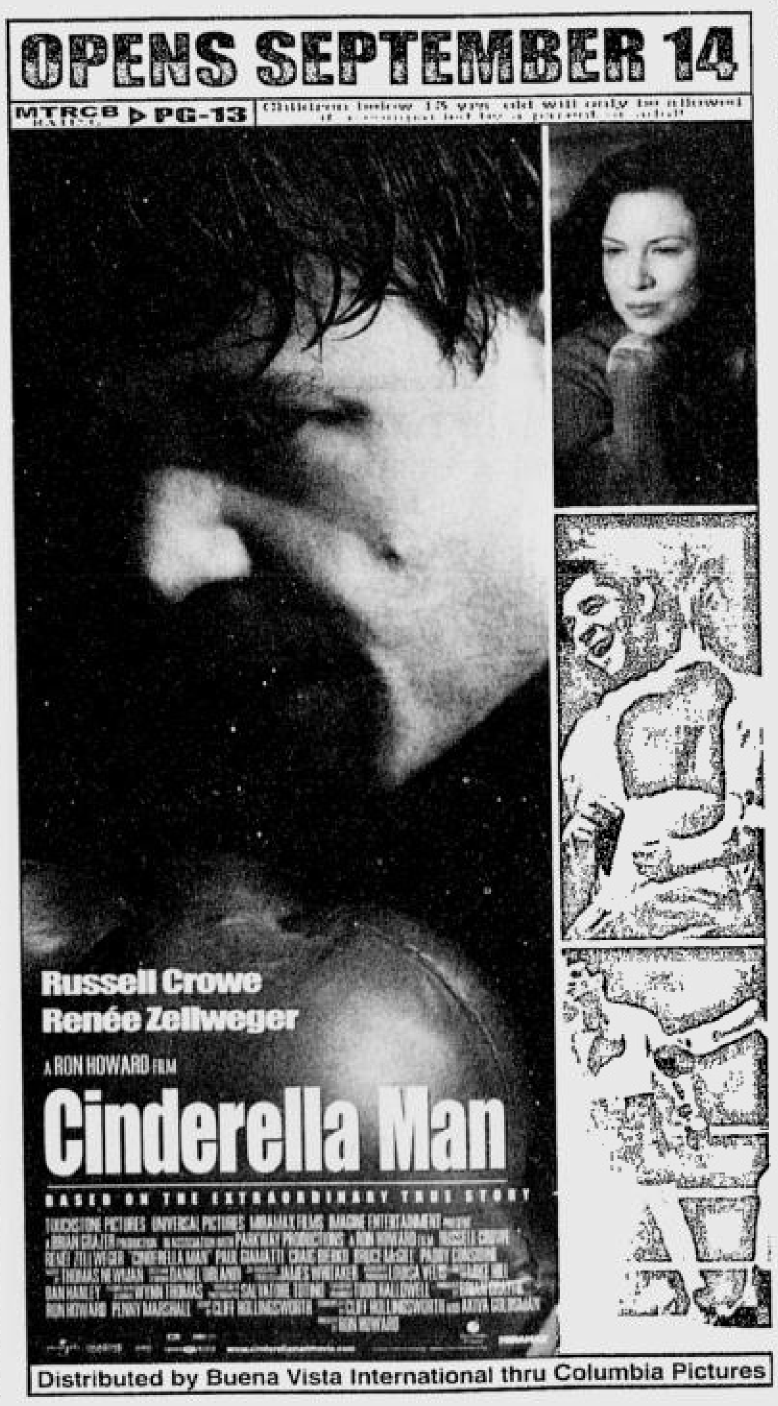
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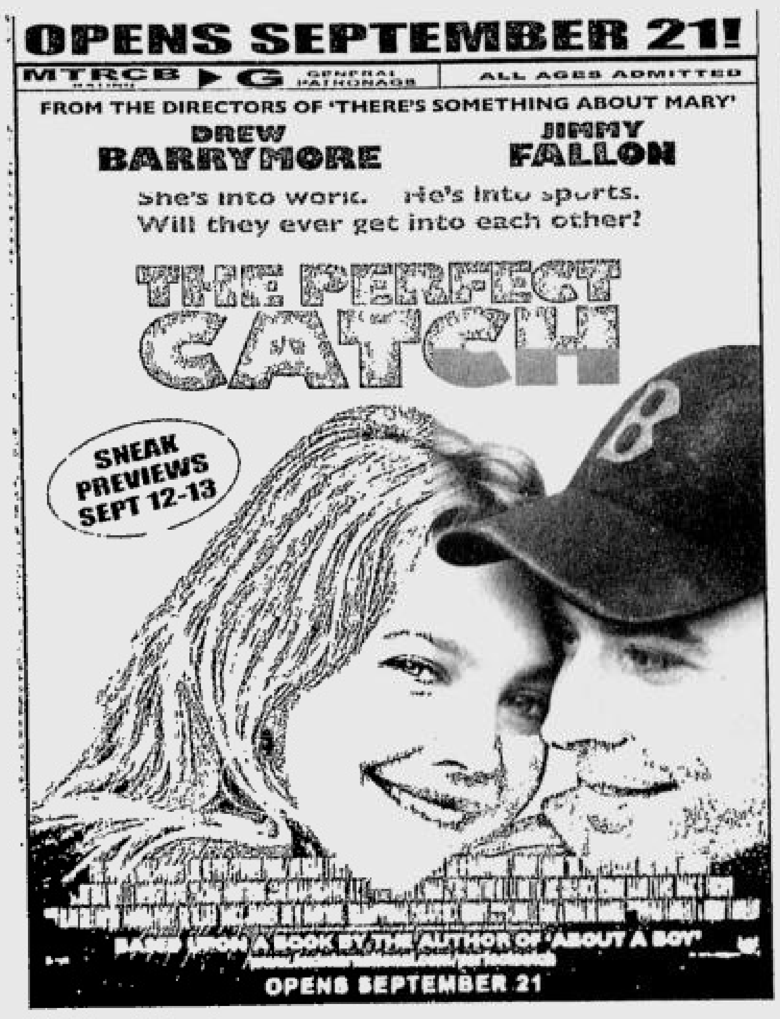
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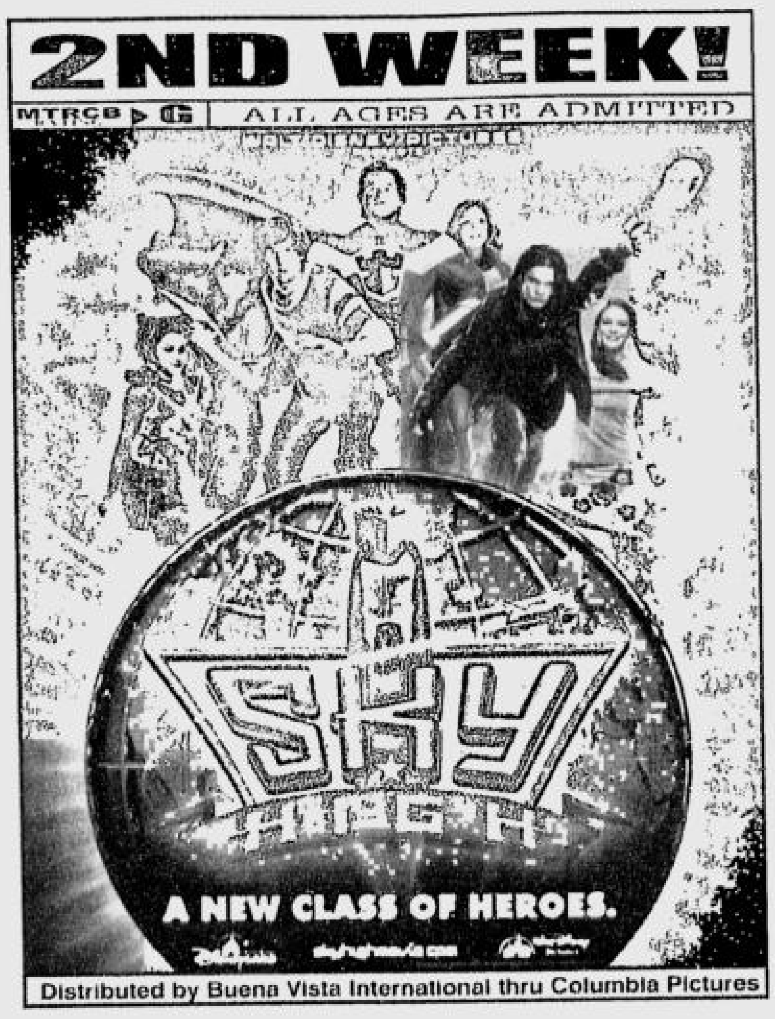
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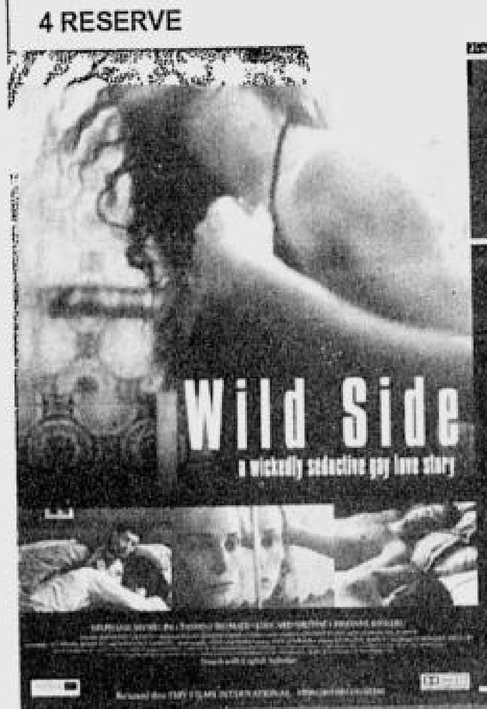
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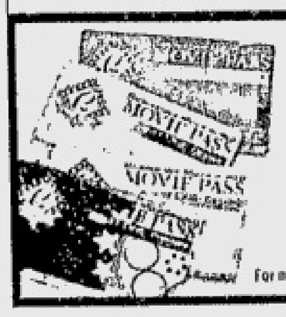

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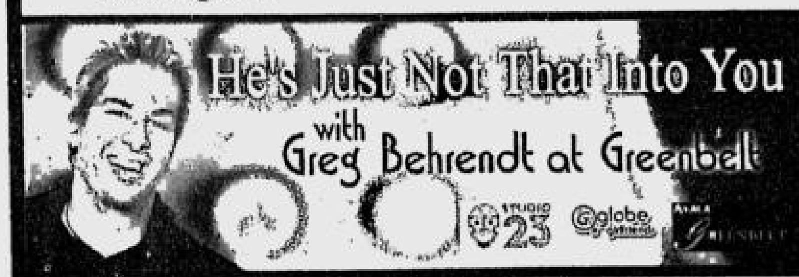

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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX RED EYE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM GUARANTEED SEATS		
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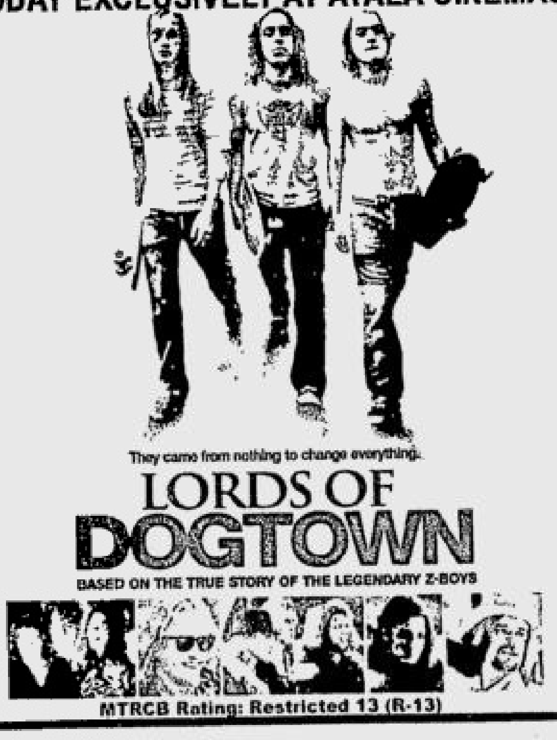
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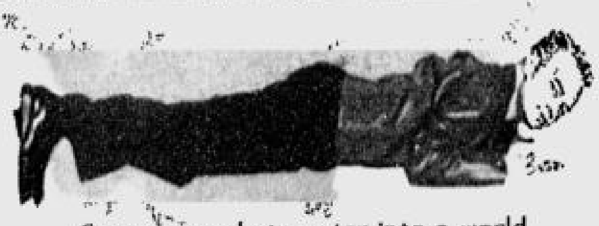

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Tenten Muñoz remembered

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

A gifted performer who brightened up people's lives

JOLINA captured Tenten's optimistic view of life in a recent biopic on TV.

WHEN THE LIFE STORY OF THE LATE TEN-**Ten Muñoz** was dramatized on "Magpakailanman" recently, we made it a point to catch the episode because we continue to rue the young singer's premature departure from our midst.

Tenten wasn't just a gifted performer; she was also a good person who brightened the lives of the people around her.

We got to know Tenten when we were tapped to direct the musical "Katy!," and we auditioned for child singers to play the title character as a kid. Many talented children auditioned, but we picked the best of the bunch—Tenten Muñoz and **Banig Roberto.**

We proceeded to rehearse Tenten and Banig to alternate as little Katy in the show, and even during rehearsals, the two feisty kids bowled people over with their enthusiastic acting and jazzy, scatty musical renditions.

With great zest and spirit, their juvenile performances more than hinted at the great, overwhelming musical life force that the adult Katy (played by **Mitch Valdes**) would become.

However, midway through rehearsals, Banig got an offer to move her performing base to the States, and had to bow out of our show. It was tough letting such an exceptional talent go, but the production didn't want to stand in the way of her potentially glittering future in US entertainment, so we gave Banig leave to go.

In any case, Tenten was a big hit in the musical, which went on to have many SRO performances at Rizal Theater and the CCP.

Years later, Tenten became a popular entertainer—then, medical tragedy struck, and the teen singer passed away. That tragic denouement shocked Tenten's fans and showbiz colleagues, and reminded everyone of the glimmering tenuousness of life, and thus our need to live each day to the fullest.

All of these thoughts surged back to consciousness when we watched "Magpakailanman." Once again, we appreciated Tenten's precocious talent and love for life, and we were grateful to the production for extending Tenten's positive influence on people's attitudes long after her most untimely demise.

Tenten was played by **Jolina Magdangal**, who did well in the role, despite her looking older than Tenten toward the end of her young life. Jolina was able to capture Tenten's resolutely optimistic view of life, even when death threatened to end it.

We hope some of our young showbiz stars were able to catch the Tenten Muñoz episode, so that they will stop taking their careers and lives for granted, and strive to make more productive and creative use of the time they have—today.

'Dance Idol'

THE SECOND edition of "Dance Idol," a competition for student and professional groups, will be held early next year. Among the events leading up to the main event in February 2006 are SM Supermall tours and campus tours.

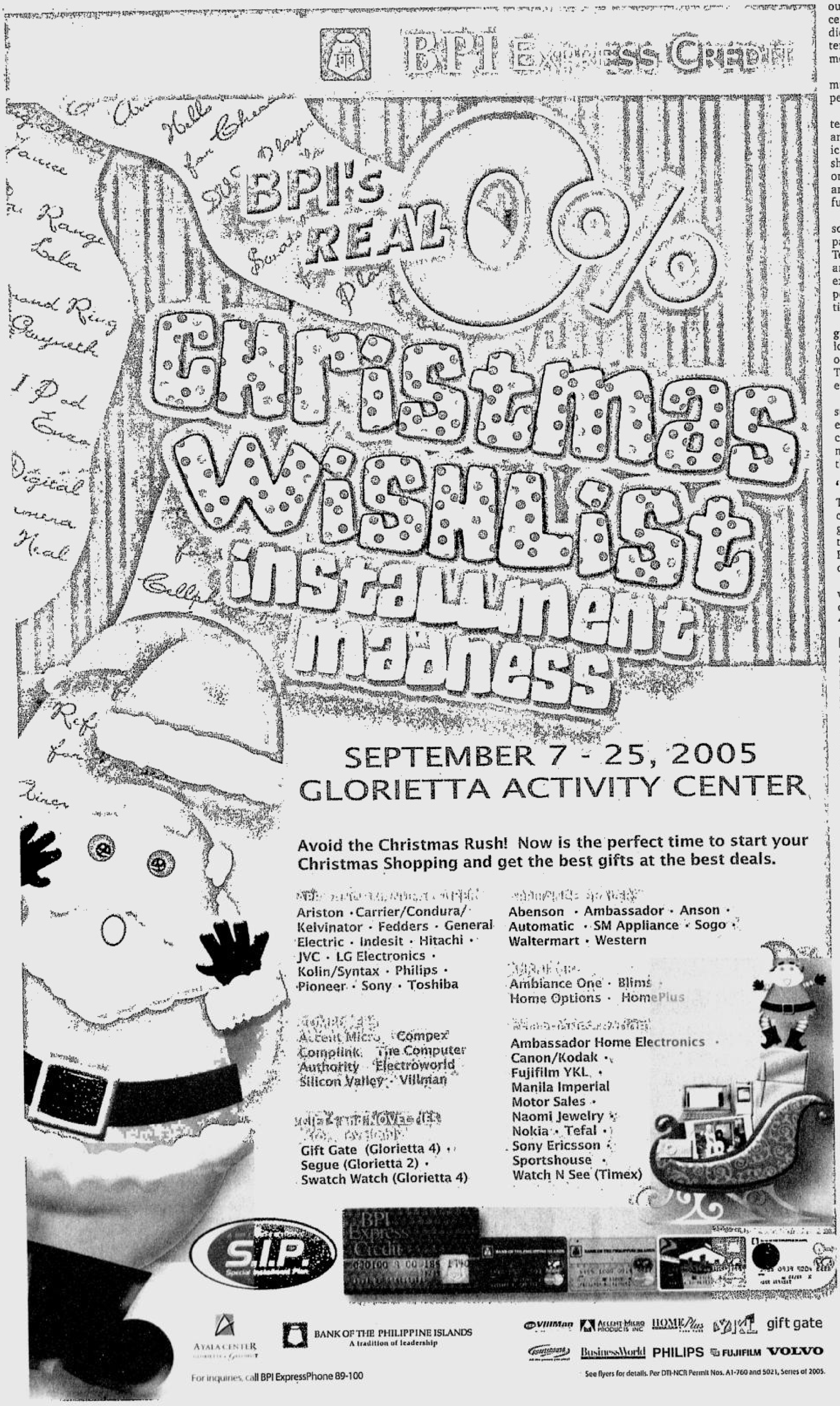
Viewers of the TV reality talent search will witness behind-the-scenes dramas and challenges. Call Streetpark Productions at 4368882.

Dawn Bande

SINGER-GUITARIST **Dawn Bande** performs at the Pan Pacific Hotel Casino on Mondays, Merk's Bar Bistro on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Bonfire Grill in Marikina on Wednesdays, and Quisine on Fridays.

'Meerkat Manor'

THE BIZARRE social life of Meerkats will be chronicled in Animal Planet's 13-part series, "Meerkat Manor," every Saturday at 8 p.m. Meerkat are precocious, pint-sized predators who live in burrows, and the series captures every facet of their eventful lives—from mating rituals to eating habits—in a fun and informative way.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Weepy fairy tale

From page A2-2

The story is stretched out to the point of exhaustion at times, not only because it repeatedly drives the point that, yes, the Braddock family is heartbreakingly poor, but also because Zellweger and Crowe's ease at transmitting grief is amplified.

With the subtlest facial expressions, the pair evokes a rainbow of reactions, which certainly helps when the situations are far from subtle. The script spoon-feeds, as gray-toned, slow-mo flashbacks belabor the obvious, and quite frankly, exude corniness. But while the imagery is over-emphasized in parts, the kinetic fury of the fight choreography, and the pain that the boxers dish out, feel all too real.

The last 20 minutes are intense, as the various inter-character conflicts—between Jim and his worried wife, between Jim and his jerk opponent (Craig Bierko) and, to a lesser degree, between Jim and his manager (Paul Giamatti)—are shaped with clarity.

"Cinderella Man" effectively inveigles one into cheering for the hero; the never-ending, tear-jerking situations assured that. The physically demanding role also makes us root for Crowe and his character. We want Jim, the underdog, to beat the crud out of the high and mighty. But bloodthirst aside, the film is okay. It makes one see it through the end with bated breath, which can be considered a feat these days, and not only for sports-themed movies.

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Inflation rose to 7.2% in August

By Michelle V. Remo

PRICES OF BASIC GOODS AND SERVICES ROSE by 7.2 percent in August from a year ago, or slightly faster than the 7.1 percent recorded the previous month.

According to a report released by the National Statistics Office yesterday, the August inflation rate brought the average inflation rate for the first eight months of the year to 8.1 percent, much higher than the 6.8 percent last year.

"High oil prices still have got to do with the latest inflation figure," said Victor Abola, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific. He said the impact of oil prices on inflation was not only reflected in the movement of prices under the commodity group fuel, light and water, but also in services.

The NSO said the increase in the prices of fuel, light and water slowed down to 18.7 percent in August from 18.9 percent in July, while that for food, beverage and tobacco decelerated to 5.8 percent from the previous month's 5.9 percent.

But the increase in the cost of services went up to 10 percent from 9.9 percent. Likewise, inflation for housing and repairs rose to 4.8 percent from the previous month's 4.7 percent.

According to Dennis Arroyo, director of the policy and planning staff of the Neda, inflation would be slower in the second half compared with that of the first not only because of the expected improvement in agricultural output but also of the high base during the same period last year.

The agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector is targeted to grow by 5.1 percent in the second semester, compared with the measly 0.7-percent growth

INFLATION/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Canadian firm, partner buy 73% of Apex /B2

/B3

Oil, power costs to soar with VAT law in force /B3

Gov't plans to borrow P532B next year

TEVES PDI PHOTO

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT will borrow P531.6 billion next year both from local and foreign creditors to finance its expenditure requirements and pay off maturing obligations that cannot be covered by its meager revenues.

Finance Secretary Margarito "Gary" Teves said next year's borrowing requirements of the government would have a 58:42 borrowing mix in favor of domestic sources. This means 58 percent will be borrowed locally while 42 percent will be sourced from abroad.

The Department of Finance has adopted the policy of borrowing more from local creditors to avoid too much exposure to foreign exchange risks. Foreign borrowings are resorted to largely to pay maturing foreign currency obligations, the DOF said.

Documents from the DOF showed that the government would borrow P531.6 billion to help fund expenses for 2006. Of the amount, P310.2 billion will be from local creditors and P221.4 billion from foreign sources.

The DOF made the statement as it announced that the national government's outstanding debt as of June this year already reached P3.89 trillion.

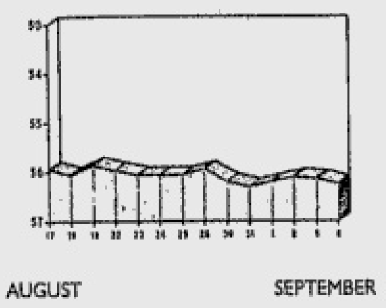
If shared among the estimated 85.2 million population in the country, each Filipino would account for P45,699 of the government's debt.

Of the total, P1.86 trillion was accounted for by foreign creditors, while P2.04 trillion was lent by local creditors.

The DOF said the latest debt figure was lower by 1.3 percent than the previous month's level. *Michelle V. Remo*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P **56.25** = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 6, 2005

Y **109.77** = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 6, 2005

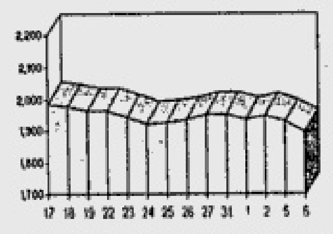
GOLD: **$442.80-443.30**

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 6, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares down 1.67%

SHARE PRICES closed 1.67 percent lower yesterday on fears that a parliament vote to quash an impeachment bid against President Macapagal-Arroyo could lead to street protests and further political instability, dealers said.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

The composite index fell 32.31 points to 1,896.71, the day's low. Volume was 417.3 million shares worth P663.07 million.

Losers beat gainers 55 to 14, with 45 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

Bangko Sentral seen raising interest rates

By Daxim L. Lucas

AN INCREASE IN LOCAL INTEREST rates appeared imminent after the prices of essential goods and services rose at a faster clip in August, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

In a statement, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank "cannot rule out possible tightening in the short run" because of recent trends in inflation and the foreign exchange market.

The government said on Tuesday that the inflation rate rose by 7.2 percent in August, faster than the central bank's prediction of 6.6-7.1 percent.

Tetangco described the difference as "minute" although he was concerned enough to take a second look at the latest economic indicators.

"While we look at future inflation for monetary policy determination, this actual figure is an important consideration," he said.

The BSP's key overnight borrowing rate—used as a guide for pricing interbank transactions and commercial loans—stands at 7 percent. The policy-making Monetary Board has so far resisted pressures to further tighten monetary policy, explaining the higher prices induced by spiraling petroleum prices were beyond its ambit.

Central bank sources disclosed that the Monetary Board voted narrowly to keep interest rates steady during its last policy-setting meeting on Aug. 25. Bankers were expecting a 25-basis-point rate increase at that meeting to counter rising "inflation expectations."

The previous rate adjustment came last April when the overnight rate was raised from 6.75 percent to 7 percent.

Tetangco's statement yesterday signaled a subtle policy shift in favor of a more hawkish stance, especially in the light of rising demand-side inflation.

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• Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044, Fax No.: 637-6008 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line 818-5555, Fax No.: 815-0513 • Ford Manila, Tel No. 562-5555 Fax No. 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel. Nos.: 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line: 717-0888, Telefax: 717-1390
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CAMP JOHN HAY
GOLF CLUB

September 7, 2005

NOTICE OF AUCTION

Please be advised that Camp John Hay Golf Club, Inc. will be holding an Auction Sale of delinquent certificates on -

20 September 2005
Friday, 10:00 A.M.
At the Kamia Function Room
Edsa Shangri - la Hotel
Mandaluyong City

** Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m.*

For further inquiries and updates, you may contact the following telephone nos. from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.:

Manila Office : 02 687 5279 or 687 6524
Baguio Office : 074 444 2132 or 444 2133

Very truly yours,

Engr. Francisco C. Gonzalez
Chairman
Membership Committee

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OMBUDSMAN BUILDING, AGHAM ROAD, NORTH TRIANGLE, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP)
SEQUENTIAL BATCH REACTOR (SBR) TYPE

The **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN**, through its Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum of **Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P5,500,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) from the Office 2005 Approved Budget particularly under the Repair and Maintenance Office Building Account, to payments for the **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) SEQUENTIAL BATCH REACTOR (SBR) TYPE**. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for **OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (STP) SEQUENTIAL BATCH REACTOR (SBR) TYPE**. Delivery of the goods is required within the period as prescribed in the bidding documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below beginning **September 21, 2005** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of **Six Thousand Pesos (P6,000.00)**.

The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 20, 2005 at 9:30 a.m.** at the following address: GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before **9:00 a.m. of September 29, 2005**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of **One hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P137,500.00)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on September 29, 2005 at 9:30 a.m., GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend to the address below.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ROBERT E. KALLOS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road,
North Triangle, Quezon City
BAC Secretariat: 926-9032 local 221 / 926-8763 / 929-3759
Email: cas@ombudsman.gov.ph • Website: www.ombudsman.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ROBERT E. KALLOS
Deputy Special Prosecutor, OSP

(PDI – September 7, 2005)

Canadian firm, partner buy 73% of Apex

By ELizabeth L. Sanchez

CANADIAN MINING FIRM CREW Gold Corp. and its local affiliate, Mapula Creek Gold, are buying 73 percent of listed gold producer Apex Mining Co. for $6.6 million or P367 million.

Apex yesterday told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the purchase price was equivalent to 67 centavos per share for 549.97 million A and B shares of the mining company.

Crew Gold group's investment is expected to improve Apex's mining operations, Apex said in a disclosure to the PSE.

The group bought the 337 million shares previously held by Manila Banking Corp. and another 148 million shares from an unnamed shareholder.

The buyers also announced their intention to conduct a tender offer in line with the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code.

Crew Gold operates a high—grade gold mining operation in Greenland with an annual production of 120,000 ounces. It also undertakes development projects in Greenland.

Mapula Creek Gold is 40 percent owned by Crew Gold and 60 percent controlled by Crew Minerals Philippine Inc. Retirement Fund. It has no major project or investments at present.

Following this disclosure, the PSE yesterday lifted the suspension of the trading of Apex shares.

Apex's mining claims in Davao del Norte cover an area of about 18,000 hectares. The area has proven gold, lead, zinc and silver deposits.

PPA plans to build 11 more ro-ro ports

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS Authority said it would need about P6 billion to develop 11 more roll-on, roll-off ports to widen the government's nautical highway program.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla said there were 76 existing seaports or ro-ro ports that could accommodate vessels big enough to carry buses and trucks.

Due to the huge cost required, Sevilla said his agency would likely prioritize the establishment of four ro-ro in Mindoro and Dumaguete where traffic was projected to rise substantially.

The PPA had tapped Japan's Pacific Consultants Inc. to conduct a feasibility study on the ro-ro projects. Once completed, Sevilla said the PPA would submit the projects for possible foreign funding.

The Arroyo administration is promoting the use of the ro-ro system to improve trade and tourism. The PPA is trying to convince shipping firms and other maritime service providers to cut their fees by 30 percent at least for cargoes coming from Mindanao.

Sevilla said the transportation department must convince oil companies to provide a similar discount so that more shipping firms could be convinced to reduce their fees.

Aboitiz Transport Systems Corp. has gone ahead of the PPA program and has started offering a 22-percent discount for farm goods coming from Mindanao.

The PPA said products from Mindanao had to be brought to Manila.

The agriculture department is promoting the use of ro-ro to bring down the cost of transporting farm products. The agency said the government wanted to increase the number of ro-ro ports to 300 or more.

The agency said that with the roro system, farmers and traders would be able to bring down the cost of their produce by about 25 percent.

Aside from trade, the roro system also boosts the tourism industry. With the roro system, tourists can bring their vehicles to their destinations or they can opt to take a bus going to the Visayas and some parts of Mindanao.

Imperial eyes mining venture in Indonesia

FORMER MINING and oil firm Imperial Resources Inc. is eyeing a possible coal mining venture in Indonesia with a Malaysian group.

In a disclosure Monday, Imperial said its executive officer already had a meeting with Malaysian group representative Willy Ong.

The Malaysian group invited Imperial to participate in the development of a coal mining project in Indonesia.

No other details were disclosed.

Imperial was earlier set up to engage in the exploration, drilling and exploitation of oil, gas and other volatile substances.

In 2000, the stockholders approved the change in the company's primary purpose from mining of base metals and oil exploration to information technology.

Upon the approval of the amendment to its primary purpose, Imperial put up Philippine Cyber College Corp., its first IT venture in education.

Also in 2000, it opened two learning centers—one in Baguio City and the other in Malolos, Bulacan.

The company used to do oil and mineral exploration. It was, however, unsuccessful in its oil exploration venture. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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Per DTI NCR Permit # A3 728, Series of 2005.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 6, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	30.5	203,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	52.5	50.5	50.5	175,500
China Banking Corp.	830	830	820	820	1,400
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	1,340,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	50.5	50	50	134,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	26.5	26.5	713,100
Philippine National Bank	37.5	38	37.5	37.5	33,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	9,100
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	75,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	30	39,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
ATR Kim Eng Fin. Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	50,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2805	2805	2805	2805	190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	18,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2025	2025	2025	2025	130
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	52,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.99	640,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	735	720	720	37,380
Ipeople Inc.	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	89,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	40,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	2,520,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1595	1595	1580	1580	92,020
Ivantage Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	450,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	12,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	47,100
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22	22	753,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,183,000
Petron Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	2,203,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	36,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	8	8	312,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.64	0.6	0.64	290,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	3	3	90,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.3	10,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	23,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	34.5	34.5	34	34	160,200
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65.5	65	65.5	71,900
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	93	93.5	262,800
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	5,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	2,000,000
Ayala Corp.	295	295	290	290	121,720
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	20,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	2	3,008,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.74	1,010,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	2,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.14	0.14	290,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	8,092,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	10,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	527,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	265,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	41	41.5	41	41	416,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	500,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	35,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	1,100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.3	3,021,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	10,810,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	50,000
SM Investments Corp.	208	209	206	207	215,180
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	520,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.14	490,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.93	0.93	3,210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	60,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	876,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PdR)	13.25	13.25	13	13	247,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.4	7.5	11,154,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	190,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	650,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	3,240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.26	1.28	28,881,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	3,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	400,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.1	42,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	460,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.1	6.9	6.9	8,758,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.08	1.24	1.04	1.08	6,660,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.08	1.26	1.06	1.1	6,260,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	70,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	216,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.4	8.4	8.2	8.2	22,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	15,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,520,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	26,210,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	94,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	18,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.87	0.87	0.84	0.84	1,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	2,232,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	28.5	29	400,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.37	0.37	0.33	0.33	350,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	1,400,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.008	28,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	18,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.41	280,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	660,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.95	3.95	3.9	3.9	33,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	8,400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	150,000

CURRENCIES

September 6, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.797194	1.000000	56.1220
Japan	Yen	0.007274	0.009125	0.5121
United Kingdom	Pound	1.470105	1.844100	103.4946
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102635	0.128745	7.2254
Switzerland	Franc	0.648705	0.813736	45.6685
Canada	Dollar	0.671661	0.842531	47.2845
Singapore	Dollar	0.476819	0.598122	33.5678
Australia	Dollar	0.609149	0.764117	42.8838
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.114685	2.652661	148.8726
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.212585	0.266667	14.9659
Brunei	Dollar	0.475397	0.596338	33.4677
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019411	0.024349	1.3665
UAE	Dirham	0.217059	0.272279	15.2808
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.254400	70.3994
Argentina	Peso	0.274185	0.343938	19.3025
Brazil	Real	0.340666	0.427332	23.9827
Denmark	Kroner	0.134082	0.168192	9.4393
India	Rupee	0.018201	0.022831	1.2813
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212019	0.265957	14.9260
Mexico	New Peso	0.074672	0.093668	5.2568
New Zealand	Dollar	0.561641	0.704523	39.5392
Norway	Kroner	0.128329	0.160976	9.0343
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013352	0.016749	0.9400
South Africa	Rand	0.127400	0.159811	8.9689
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.000974	0.0547
Sweden	Kroner	0.107856	0.135294	7.5930
Syria	Pound	0.015357	0.019264	1.0811
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024541	0.030784	1.7277
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000371	0.000466	0.0262

Inflation rose to . . .

From page B1

recorded in the first half. This recovery will help temper increases in food products.

"Bad weather results in supply shortage, and so the rainy months of July, August and September would help improve production and slow down increases in food prices," Abola said.

Abola said average inflation for the full year was likely to settle at between 7.8 and 8 percent. The projection assumes that Dubai crude would stay at $56 a barrel in the second half and thus post a full-year average of $50 a barrel, or 48 percent higher than last year's level.

The Neda has projected that the full-year inflation for the year would settle at 8 percent, while the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimated it at 7.9 percent.

The BSP said that with the level of inflation, it was not ruling out the possibility of again tightening up its monetary policy. *(See story on this page.)*

A HEARING AID IS NOT EXPENSIVE

BEHIND THE EAR TYPE

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•
Hi Quality
•
With switch for low frequency reduction

POCKET TYPE

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

STAR MILLS PAMPANGA 2nd Floor (45) 636-3513	SM MANILA 5th Floor 484-1471	ROBINSONS PIONEER 2nd Floor 687-6878
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-0436	SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-1565	SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 417-8286	SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-7540	ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

Oil, power costs to soar with VAT law in force

By Michelle V. Remo

OIL PRICES WILL FURTHER INCREASE by an average of 6.4 percent once the VAT Reform Law (RVAT) takes effect, officials said yesterday.

According to government simulations based on oil prices as of Monday, the price of unleaded gasoline will increase by P2.76 or 8.3 percent with the VAT in place.

Electricity prices are also expected to inch up by 6 percent.

Price of regular gasoline will go up by P2.23 or 6.9 percent; diesel, P0.72 or 2.3 percent; Kerosene, P1.87 or 6 percent; bunker, P1.31 or 6.5 percent; and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), P30.97 or 7.8 percent.

RVAT, the name preferred by the Department of Finance to identify the new VAT law, has been suspended following complaints raised by opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers.

But the Supreme Court last week upheld the law's constitutionality, making finance officials hopeful the high court will lift the restraining order before the end of the month.

The new VAT law basically will expand the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity among others.

Proudly socialist, proudly pro-lesbian

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

CORAZON "DINKY" Soliman has never been shy about her socialist vision for the Philippines that stemmed from her UP days and her being a child of a "kapatas" of Hacienda Luisita.

What is not generally known is that her activist NGO has lesbian leanings and is quite proud of them.

Community Organizers Multiversity, the NGO that Dinky organized, is listed as one of the member groups of the Society of United Lesbians Inc., which was launched in mid-2001.

The lesbian network came out of the closet and declared its existence with a poetry reading festival entitled, "Kalibugan ng Buwan (Lust of the Moon): An Erotic Feast," highlighted by the distribution of free condoms among the gay audience.

Even the Peace and Equity Foundation, the beneficiary of the P1.4-billion Peace Bond windfall from CODE-NGO (which was once headed by Dinky), is apparently helping push the lesbian envelope.

Chaired by Jesuit priest Noel Vasquez, with former Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani as treasurer, Peace and Equity Foundation released only last May a P1.935-million grant to the Women's Media Circle Foundation for a special media project, "Sa Akin Pa Rin ang Bukas" (literally, Tomorrow is Still Mine).

Headed by activist Anna Leah Sarabia, the feminist foundation organized the 2003 "International Lesbian and Gay Association" world conference in Manila, among other activities with a similar theme.

On the socialist agenda, Dinky and "Butch" Abad during the early Cory months worked the peasant ranks to successfully launch the Congress for a People's Agrarian Reform, which rejected the Cory-inspired Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

Two decades and two peasant massacres (one on Mendiola during the Aquino presidency and another in Cory's Hacienda Luisita) later, who does Dinky march hand-in-hand and exchange "beso-beso" with?

Cory Aquino herself.

Congratulations are in order, then, for Dinky for having finally achieved her socialist dream—being accepted as an equal by her former haciendera master.

Foreign-funded courage

DURING last week's visit by the Hyatt 10 at the INQUIRER, former Peace Adviser Teresita Quintos-Deles was asked about the group's job prospects now that they have chosen to leave the GMA Cabinet and have even engaged in mass actions to oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Since the session was mostly off the record, we did not take down notes, but what we could distinctly remember was that Deles beamed and said something like this: "Oh, you'll be surprised at the kind of offers that we have been getting."

Deles did not elaborate, and the INQUIRER reporter did not ask a followup question.

But looking at the financial reports of the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, the Ateneo-based NGO that Deles headed before she got drafted into the GMA Cabinet, Deles seems to have pretty solid foreign backing.

In the four years to 2004, the Deles NGO received foreign grants from such varied donors as Olof Palme International Center (over P2.9 million), United Nations (over P460,000), Asia Foundation (P330,000), Japan Foundation (over P679,000), Ford Foundation (over P358,000), Norfil Foundation (over P260,000), British Embassy (over P1 million), International Action Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons (over P850,000), Canadian government (P600,000), and University of Wisconsin (over P1.58 million).

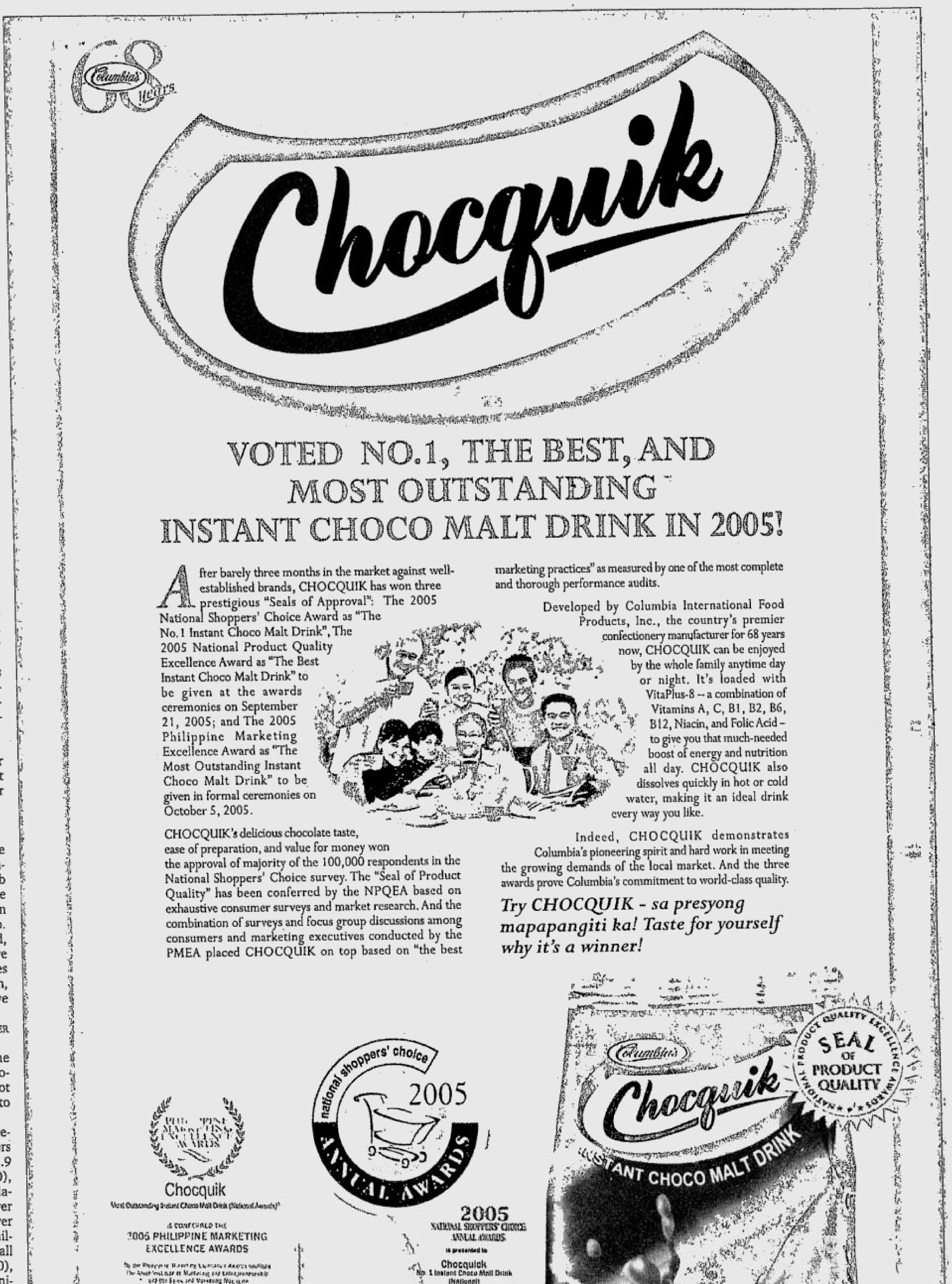
Money-go-round

- ACTING BIR chief Jose Mario Buñag has agreed to go on TV to help push the war against tax evasion, appearing "live" initially every Thursday at 7 p.m. over the RJ channel. Buñag will answer questions from the viewers.
- RESIGNED Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad said the appointment of Romulo Neri to the Department of Budget and Management was akin to "letting Dracula loose in the blood bank."

Heard through the grapevine

THE MERGER of Allied Bank and Philippine National Bank will have to wait until after the sequestration case on Allied Bank shall have been resolved. That could take a few more years.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)


Columbia's 68 years

Chocquik

VOTED NO.1, THE BEST, AND MOST OUTSTANDING INSTANT CHOCO MALT DRINK IN 2005!

After barely three months in the market against well-established brands, CHOCQUIK has won three prestigious "Seals of Approval": The 2005 National Shoppers' Choice Award as "The No.1 Instant Choco Malt Drink", The 2005 National Product Quality Excellence Award as "The Best Instant Choco Malt Drink" to be given at the awards ceremonies on September 21, 2005; and The 2005 Philippine Marketing Excellence Award as "The Most Outstanding Instant Choco Malt Drink" to be given in formal ceremonies on October 5, 2005.

CHOCQUIK's delicious chocolate taste, ease of preparation, and value for money won the approval of majority of the 100,000 respondents in the National Shoppers' Choice survey. The "Seal of Product Quality" has been conferred by the NPQEA based on exhaustive consumer surveys and market research. And the combination of surveys and focus group discussions among consumers and marketing executives conducted by the PMEA placed CHOCQUIK on top based on "the best marketing practices" as measured by one of the most complete and thorough performance audits.

Developed by Columbia International Food Products, Inc., the country's premier confectionery manufacturer for 68 years now, CHOCQUIK can be enjoyed by the whole family anytime day or night. It's loaded with VitaPlus-8 -- a combination of Vitamins A, C, B1, B2, B6, B12, Niacin, and Folic Acid – to give you that much-needed boost of energy and nutrition all day. CHOCQUIK also dissolves quickly in hot or cold water, making it an ideal drink every way you like.

Indeed, CHOCQUIK demonstrates Columbia's pioneering spirit and hard work in meeting the growing demands of the local market. And the three awards prove Columbia's commitment to world-class quality.

Try CHOCQUIK - sa presyong mapapangiti ka! Taste for yourself why it's a winner!

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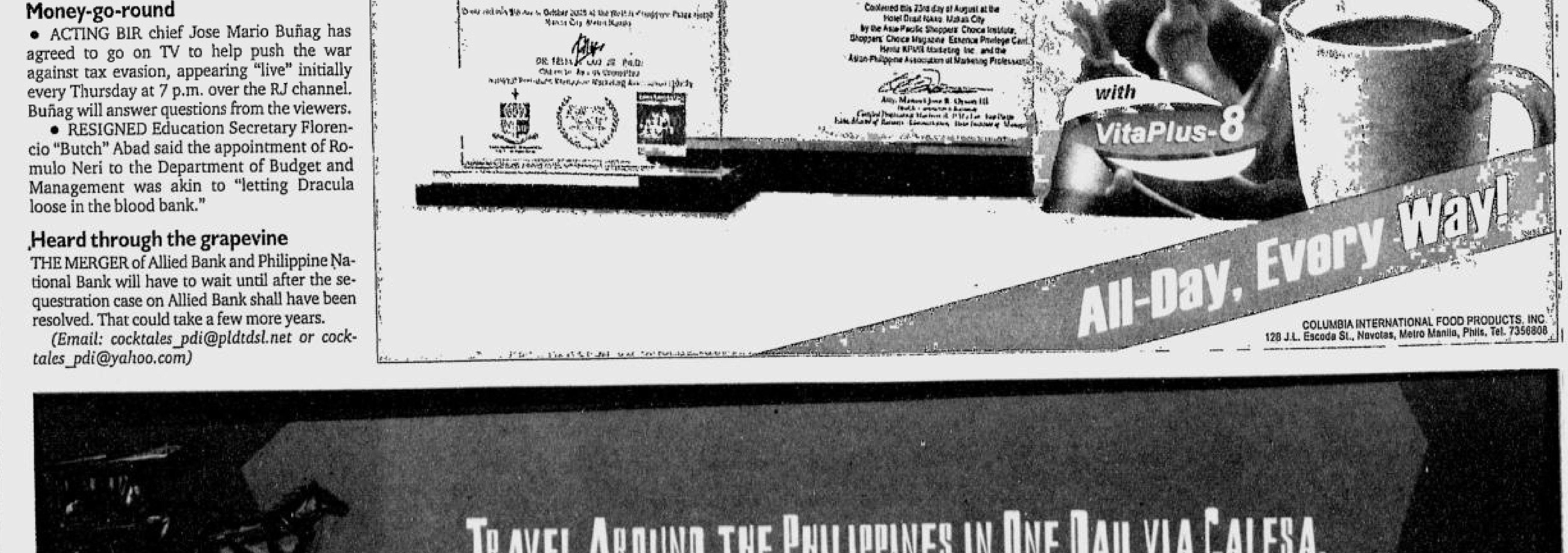
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Pinoy fashion merchandiser goes global

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

CAREER TALES

SHE CLAIM'S SHE'S LIKE A LITTLE girl playing in a woman's world because of her job. Little girls go through a stage when they would try on their mother's high heels and wrap pearls around their necks. For Anna Liza de Rosario Sia, it was never a stage. She never outgrew it, and it has now become not only her lifestyle, but her way of earning a living. As a fashion merchandiser, Sia makes a living out of trying on different skirts and influencing which kind of wrap would a large fraction of the female population wear next summer.

Sia is president and CEO of Hollywood Boulevard Corporation, a trading and retailing company that supplies a large majority of SM Department Store's garments and apparels. A part of the company since its conception, Sia started out managing the company's retail outlets in major department stores like Robinson's Galleria and SM Department Store in the early 90s. "After several years doing retail, I have decided to go global-tapping other markets in Asia and the US," recalls Sia.

Global office

Going global for Hollywood Boulevard Corporation, it is necessary for Sia to travel to different countries to bring in the latest styles to the Philippines. On peak seasons, Sia is literally shopping all over the world, traveling an average of four times a month traipsing from China to Hong Kong, Thailand to Vietnam and to the fashion capitals in Italy, France and the United States.

She also visit's the company's buying and manufacturing offices in China, Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines, San Francisco and California. Sia becomes a liaison between design, production, sourcing, marketing, sales and allocations. Aside from being a liaison, she has other responsibilities. One of which is to ensure that product lines are out in the market in a timely and profitable manner.

A self-confessed shopaholic, Sia takes this passion to work and makes it her mission to educate the people about fashion. "As a fashion merchandiser, my goal is to unleash the conservatism of many in us that is limiting most of us to being basic and plain," shares Sia. "Fortunately most Asians, especially us Filipinos, have the right built to wear many fashionable and trendy outfits; we should take advantage of this and explore fashion."

Starting young

It's curious that Sia started out as an accountant. "It's an innate thing," she claims of her love for fashion. It was something that she has always wanted that drove her to step out of her comfort zone and try out the fashion business with hardly any background except for an undeniable fondness for shopping and fashion.

Sia's mother was also in the clothing business. Sia remembers how she would often try out the clothes in display in her mother's boutique and how she would add embellishments on the merchandise to make them look better. "That probably opened my interest in the fashion world," muses Sia. She started young in the business. Before she graduated from college, at 16, she was already exploring other countries in Asia for the latest in couture.

SIA

RAFFY LERMA

With a degree in business administration and a major in accounting from the University of Santo Tomas, Sia brought Hollywood Boulevard to where it is now. "Consider me lucky. I was in the right place at the right time."

Fashion education

As the company grew, Sia supplemented her knowledge and background by taking up short courses at a fashion school in Los Angeles. She's been planning to study in France to further broaden her expertise but unfortunately, she couldn't find the time. Instead, she is grooming her daughter Alta to help out in the business.

She says that La Salle College International, the Canadian fashion school in Makati, where her daughter took up Fashion Marketing, is a good school for those who are serious about the industry. Sia believes it is one of the best fashion schools in the country today.

"Having a distinct taste in fashion will not make a person a fashion merchandiser as easily. You must have experience, which is perhaps one of the best teachers, as well as the education to back it up," notes Sia. According to Sia, aside from knowing fashion, a merchandiser must also know how to develop an assortment plan, including breadth, depth, price-point and space allocation for a specific product category. It is also important to know how to decide on the profit that should be made for a product.

"Being a fashion merchandiser really does require a lot of talent. It's not something you learn in books alone. It doesn't happen overnight either. You must have the enthusiasm and the "eye" to do the job."

The eye for the job

Having the "eye" for the job means knowing what would click in the market. For Sia, it gives her great satisfaction to see people wearing what she brought out in the market. A veteran in the art of fashion, Sia claims she breathes the industry. Working in the fashion industry for over 26 years now, Sia easily predicts what would make a hit. "Fashion repeats itself. Once you know fashion's history, it will be much easier to foresee upcoming trends."

Although a good part of the job consists of shopping, trying on clothes and traveling, it doesn't come without hardships. And by hardships we do not mean jet lag, calloused feet or overcharged credit cards. Typical workdays also consist of coordinating with and managing people from different parts of the globe with different customs and varied time zones. Then, there's the never-ending computations. She also admits that traveling to many countries unaided could also be difficult, especially in areas where English is not the first language.

"There are many difficulties and challenges, but the most challenging part for me is to develop a style that I would not wear myself. As a merchandiser I don't only think of what is nice to my eyes but I have to think of what my market wants."

Global opportunities

Sia says that those who have the "eye" for the business can expect to earn as much as $50,000 a year abroad. Aside from fashion merchandising, one can also get into visual merchandising, marketing, fashion designing and advertising.

Incidentally, Sia is also designing most of her products. In fact, some of her lines are being marketed in the United States. She is also presently in the process of opening another office in New York. Her plans and goals do not stop there.

Recently appointed as president of the Rotary Club of Sampaguita Grace Park, Sia sees her new responsibility as a means to carry out her mission and at the same time be of service to the community. Eager to bring the Filipino talent to recognition, Sia is excited about her new position. She intends to broaden the people's minds to what fashion has to offer and as a result encourage other countries to recognize our crafts. "It will again bring out the girl in me, playing in the real world, fulfilling the duties and responsibilities I have shouldered."

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

Recording engineer makes beautiful music for performers

By Ruth M. Floresca
Contributor

ALL ABOUT WORK

FOR A GOOD PRODUCT TO STAND out, it should be packaged well. The same goes with music. Have you ever realized that the songs we hear on the radio or on CDs are simply not just made up of the artists' voices and instruments? Behind every song are people responsible for making the music turn out just the way they're supposed to sound. But rarely do the skilled people in the background who work long hours get the recognition they deserve. The recording engineer, like Romer Rosellon, is one of the skilled personnel behind every musical performance.

Choosing a path

Rosellon realized early in his teens that he wanted to be a sound engineer one day. He just didn't know how. "There wasn't any college course in the Philippines that directly trains a student how to become one," he says. "I figured the closest I could enroll in would be in an engineering course." Unfortunately, Rosellon didn't make the quota for ECE (Electronics and Communications Engineering) in UP Diliman so he opted to take Chemical Engineering in UP Los Baños as an alternative.

Three years into his chosen course, Rosellon decided to shift and study classical guitar in UP College of Music instead. By then, his musical talents, honed at an early age, have already been put to good use through show band gigs in clubs, performances with a partner flutist in fine-dining restaurants and tutoring guitar enthusiasts.

Rosellon initially worked as apprentice to a musical arranger. "That's where I first learned how to work with computers in relation to music," he recalls. Soon after, he was hired by another studio originally as in-house guitarist but was offered the position of audio tech when the owner saw his potential.

A fast learner with a good musical ear to boot, Rosellon became adept in creating and perfecting sound for television and radio advertisements within a year. "We mostly did audio postings for TV and commercial jingles then," he recounts.

Finding fulfillment

One day in August 1998, Rosellon submitted his resumé to Amerasian Studios. He was eventually made a regular employee in the new studio, awakening his passion for music as a recording engineer. He has been with the same company up to this time.

Since he started at Amerasian, Rosellon has worked with famous producers such as Vehnee Saturno, Willy Cruz, Eugene Villaluz, Margot and Edith Gallardo, and Viva recording artists, the likes of Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Sarah Geronimo and Ogie Alcasid, among many others. Unknown to many, Rosellon is the recording engineer behind several Lito Camo novelty songs like "Bulaklak" and "Sasakyan Kita."

ROSELLON

RUDY ESPERAS

Job requirements

When asked what the other perks of his job are aside from rubbing elbows with the famous, Rosellon candidly replies, "There is personal satisfaction when I get to deliver what the producer wants using my musical creativity. It's a plus when an album becomes a bestseller."

While record engineering is a technical job, Rosellon says, "It also involves having a 'good ear.' You have to instinctively know what sounds good and gauge if that is what your client wants."

Rosellon adds, "You need patience in this job. It takes about 10 hours to get a song right, working with a minimum of 24 tracks." However, he adds that teaming up with very talented singers and musicians makes the job something to look forward to. "What's great about repetition is how certain things come out better as the momentum builds up. You'll suddenly discover something you didn't hear the first few times, and that's exciting."

At present, aside from working at Amerasian, Rosellon has established 5.2K Music Lab, his own home studio in Laguna where he works with musicians who can't afford yet to have their music mixed in the big studios. "It's nice to be able to help aspiring artists by making record engineering available for them to come up with their own albums," he explains.

(*Send feedback to* writermom-@gmail.com)

What does the average employee ...

From page B5

thank your people and you'll quickly find that they'll go out of their way for you.

Do you ask for feedback? We are all customer-focused today. Well here is a simple question, who is the customer of your boss? Your employees. When was the last time that you asked that customer for feedback? Even if your company doesn't do 360 evaluations, you can do your own.

Follow these tips and you won't need to be armed and dangerous, your people will do the right things for the right reasons.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: What is the most important thing that a boss can do?

—Let people learn from their mistakes, 14.9 percent

—Ask for feedback, 18.4 percent

—Say thank you, 26.8 percent

—Do what he or she says she'll do, 39.8 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

'How do I balance work and post-graduate studies?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I HAVE BEEN AN HR PRACTItioner for quite some time now and I feel that I need to deepen my background in HR. You see, I am an AB Psychology graduate and when I got into corporate communications five years ago I didn't expect the field of HR to be this challenging and fulfilling to me.

Now I see myself growing and specializing in this field. However, I also understand the importance of academic preparation in the context of actual practice. Some friends have been telling me an MBA might be what I need but I really can't see myself regularly attending classes for the next two years or so especially when I've been out of school for the past 10 years. I also don't think attending simplified short courses where they compress three units of study in three days would do. I've attended some and it was frustrating to attempt deep discussions when people are rushing through the material.

What can I do to get the academic preparation I feel I need in my development with minimum disruption in my busy work schedule? Any indication would be a great help, Ms Tita. And I think I speak for a lot of my generation out there.

Busy Bee

Thank you for your letter. More and more people are going for higher studies that lead to a masters. Truly, our current environment with the pervasive presence of the Internet and satellite communications has ushered in the knowledge age. Most career people think a more thorough preparation like an advanced degree is needed to get ahead. I agree that today, knowledge is a key source of expert power and often spurs career advancement.

You are fortunate because educational institutions have become very dynamic and creative. They have customized flexible curriculum and schedules attuned to the needs of professionals for continuing education. You want to pursue a masters degree with minimal disruption to your work life. I suggest you consider Saidi or the Southeast Asian Development Institute, a quiet yet successful graduate school with its main campus in Antipolo.

Post-graduate training

Saidi has been providing post-graduate training to corporate executives and professionals for the last 30 years. It has granted degrees to professionals from Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Thailand and the USA.

The academic program is designed with the business professional in mind. Each company and learner can fit the program to his own unique needs and conditions. Its program is learner-centered—conditions for learning are controlled by the learner. It uses open learning where through the modular approach, learning is flexible and convenient. It uses, if needed, portable distance mode learning. Pursuing rigorous research orientation, it cultivates a strong sense of methodical and scientific inquiry. The work setting becomes the laboratory optimizing pragmatic and empirical learning.

Saidi offers blended learning methodologies to include classroom instruction, training, mentoring, competency assessments, research and application. The process encompasses knowledge acquisition, experiential learning and exploratory and application modules.

Flexible course

A mentoring program assigns a mentor to each learner who provides guidance in action research. This allows greater flexibility in the relationship between the school and learner. Electronic technology facilitates communication between parties. An open-calendar policy allows a learner to get started at any time.

Saidi was a wonderful discovery for us when like you, our company was looking for a graduate school that will enable some of our consultants to pursue higher education while doing full-time work. Today, a number of them have expressed interest in moving on from a masters to a doctorate degree. We are so impressed with Saidi we have forged an alliance with them.

Tie-up

Our Ancilla Ayala office has been designated as the Makati campus enabling professionals the easy access to the faculty. Ancilla and Saidi have together developed the curriculum for a master degree in organization development with a choice of two majors: either enterprise leadership or human capital development.

The course enables the human resource practitioner or a functional specialist to understand the current demands of his or her job, at the same time, preparing the person for advancement to leadership position. We understood that the challenge of the country today is in developing effective leaders to run enterprises both private, public or development-oriented.

Our leadership philosophy looks at the requirements of effective leadership. He or she is capable of taking the long view of strategy yet capable of effective execution of plans and programs. The leader is capable of building people and talent but can appreciate and develop synergies with all functions and processes. On top of knowledge competencies, he or she appreciates responsible governance and ethical practices.

For more information, please call Verggs Bagunu at telephone nos. 892-2895 to 96 or 892-2898 or e-mail saidi@ancillaedc.com.ph.

Thanks and God Bless.

(*Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Send feedback through e-mail to* advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.)

What does the average employee wish their boss knew?

DEAR WW: I HAVE 10 EMPLOYEES WHO are working for me and they all seem to be moving in slow motion. What can I do to get them to perform better?

Sleepwalkers

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

The US Court of Appeals overturned the "armed" robbery conviction of Deshon Odom. Sure he was carrying a gun when he robbed the bank. But since the gun was in his waistband, he hadn't intended for anyone in the bank to see it, he was considered not "legally" armed. The court said the Federal statute only applied to using a gun, not merely carrying one.

Mr. Odom escaped his armed robbery conviction because he wasn't armed in the eyes of the court. Unfortunately, most managers would be unable to use that defense. I'm not saying that you're carrying a gun, but as long as you have the ability to discipline an employee, you're indeed "armed and dangerous" in the eyes of the people who report to you. There are ways to overcome this challenge and to earn the trust of your people. For more, check out, "I Wish You Would Just…" by Todd McDonald and Kyndra Wilson (WalkYourTalk.com).

Do you tell them what's going on? Most managers have access to a lot more information than the people who report to them do. Executive briefings, reports and meetings can provide more information and context on what is really happening with your company. How ambitiously do you share this information with the people who report to you?

Do you let your people learn from their mistakes? Think back on your career; when did you learn the most at work? If you are like most people, you learned the most when you screwed up. Welcome to the club. Yet most managers tend to create a zero-tolerance attitude around mistakes. I'm not saying you should encourage mistakes, but appreciate that a certain number of nonfatal mistakes will allow your people to grow and develop.

Do you do what you say you'll do? My mail is full of people who complain about bosses who don't do what they say they'll do. Or worse, who say one thing and then do something totally different. Your people appreciate it when you are as dependable as you expect them to be.

Do you say thank you? I can hear what you are thinking, "Isn't a paycheck thanks enough?" In a word, no. Everyone likes to be acknowledged and thanked for their contributions. Go out of your way to

WHAT/ B4

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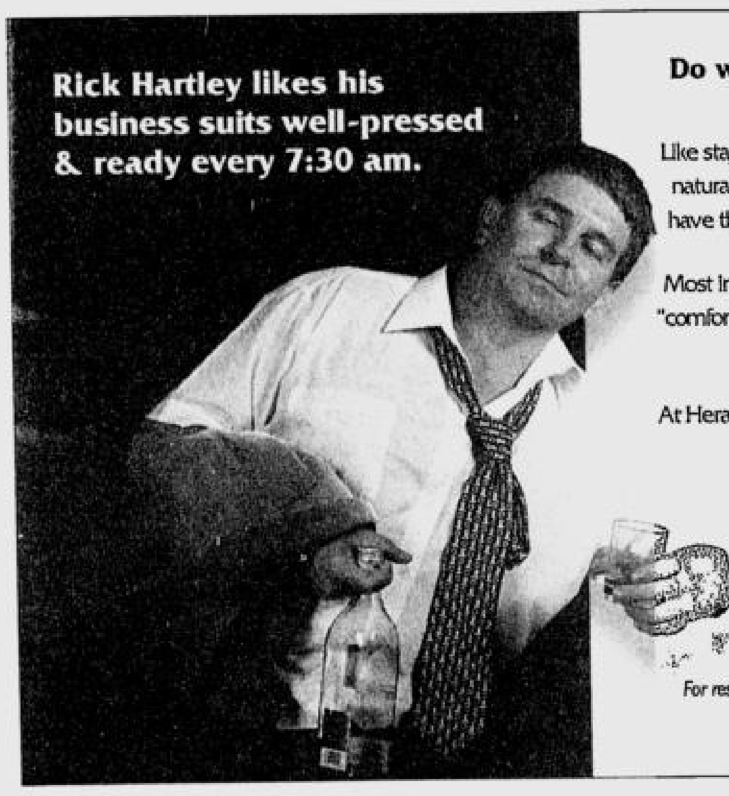

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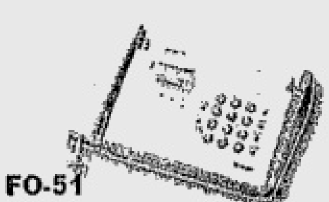

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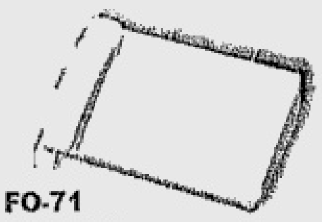

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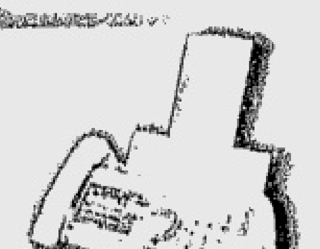

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Agency of the Year honors bestowed Sep. 9

THE 2004 AGENCY OF THE YEAR SEARCH, with the theme "A Different Ballgame", comes to a head. A total of 18 participating agencies and 15 production houses are competing for various excellence awards to be given on Sep. 9, 6 to 10 p.m. at the Adidas Sports Kamp, The Fort. The affair will be reflective of the suspense and excitement of competing in a truly different ballgame. The program and food shall be consistent with this theme, as all ad agencies and production houses are urged to come to the AOY Awards Night in team uniforms in order to cheer more comfortably for their respective team's ultimate win.

An illustrious group of ad industry stalwarts recently gathered to judge the best of the best in various categories. They have identified the ad firms that have best responded to the times, and demonstrated the ability to escape or run towards the tsunami of changes. Raul Castro (Lowe), Micky Domingo (McCann Erickson), David Guerrero (BBDO/GO), Richard Irvine (Hemisphere-Leo Burnett), Mon Jimenex (JimenezBasic), Melvin Mangada (TBWA/SMP), Yoly Ong (Campaigns & Grey), Roger Pe (DDB Philippines) and Leigh Reyes (Y&R Philippines) evaluated the Best in Creative Entries.

The Best in Management of Business entries were reviewed by Eric Canoy (RMN), Miguel Belmonte (the Philippine Star), Philip Go (Accel-Sporteum Phils.), RJ Esteban (PSRC), Edd Fuentes (Fuentes Publicity), Bambi Locsin (Businessworld), Mandy Reyes (Industria Productions), Lito Yabut (Primax), and Sari Yap (Metro Magazine).

The Best in Market Performance category participants were judged by Mon Alcaraz (Alta productions), Rudy Ang (Ateneo de Manila University), Edwin Bautista (Union Bank of the Philippines), Johannes Chuansu (Food Industries), Nanette Diyco (Businessworld), Benjie Ecarnacion (Mores), Cherry Gambol (Electromedia), Blen Fernando (Alaska Milk Corp), Menchie Orlina (Western Union), and Jimmy Puno (UA & P). On the other hand, the agencies that demonstrated excellence in Industry Leadership and Community Service have been screened by Boy Abunda (ABS-CBN), Raul Alvarez (AdBoard), Javier Calero (Zenith Optimedia), Mitos Camahort (4AsP), Johnip Cua (P & G), Dodie Lucas (Roadrunner), Tina Monzon-Palma (ANC), Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (Hands-on Manila/Philippine Daily Inquirer) and Oscar Valenzuela (Adboard).

Media excellence and production excellence awards will be bestowed to chosen media companies or full service agencies, and TV and broadcast production houses respectively. The media excellence category judging was done by the group of Jay Bautista (AC Nielsen), Bobby Barreiro (ABC 5), Alex Fernandez (Unilab), Nic Gabunada (ABS-CBN), Judy Mercado (PSRC), Pepito Olarte (Inquirer), and Carol Sarthou (Synovate).

The production excellence review, on the other hand was executed by a team of creative directors that include John Amon (Campaigns & Grey), Joey Campillo (Harisson Communications), Cirio Cinco (Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi), Dino Ocampo (O&M), Raoul Panes (BBDO/GO), Lilit Reyes (Hemisphere Leo Burnett), Dulce Aristorenas (AB Communicatons), Chona Bustamante (McCann Erickson), Gerry De Guia (Lowe), and Paul Suarez (Jimenez Basic).

Which agency created the all-important difference? Which one stood out in a fast-morphing industry? Which one played a different ballgame? Know who it will be, call the 4AsP secretariat at 893-1205 or 813-497 or e-mail 4asp@skyinet.net for ticket reservations.

Amaes partners with Mabuhay Satellite

AMA EDUCATION SYSTEM (AMAES) HAS again embarked on an ambitious but landmark undertaking that would utilize state-of-the-art technology and facilities of the Mabuhay Satellite Corp. The partnership, proof of AMA's commitment to technological advancements, will wirelessly link all of AMA's affiliate schools, including its international branches, within Agila2's coverage into one educational site.

Mabuhay Satellite's Agila2 capacity will be used primarily by AMA's e-Learning education program, a first in the Philippines, as its medium to channel open education.

Amaes president Amable C. Aguiluz IX said this partnership would further boost AMA's position as the number one IT-based education hub in the whole of Asia, a mile ahead from its nearest competition. "Being the pioneer of computer education in the Philippines, AMA will remain as the bastion of ICT professionals in the country with this groundbreaking collaboration.

Bits & Clips

WOW Magic Sing's videoke challenge

WOW MAGIC SING PREMIUM, SMART IDD AND SM SuperMalls, in cooperation with the Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority and the Philippine Tour Operators Association have launched the "WOW Galing ng Pinoy" videoke challenge. "WOW Galing ng Pinoy" videoke challenge is open to all Filipino videoke enthusiasts ages 18 and above. In order to qualify for this competition, contestants should pick an OPM song only from WOW Magic Sing Premium song list. Get your application forms at authorized WOW Magic Sing Premium dealers in SM Supermalls, SM customer service booth, SM marketing office, Smart Biyahe Na Booth, DoT regional officers and select Konica Photoshops. The contest will be held at SM Activity/Entertainment Centers starting Sep. 9. In-A-Jiffy Enterprises and G2K Corp is the exclusive distributor of WOW Magic Sing Premium, the only videoke microphone that promotes Philippine tourism. For more information, call 248-2474.

PCCI's 3rd 'Investourism' forum

IN PURSUIT OF A VISION TO UPLIFT THE tourism industry, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry is embarking on a "3rd Investourism Forum and Business Matching." This is parallel to government's effort to attract tourism investments in the country and to further the increasing significance and potentials of the tourism industry, particularly its role in boosting the Philippine economy. The Investourism Forum happens on Sep. 9, 1 to 6 p.m. at the Mega Trade Conference Center, 5th level of SM Mega Mall. It will be staged in partnership with the 16th Philippine Travel Mart organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with prospective investors/developers of tourism-related industries face-to-face in the "Business Matching" session that will be held simultaneously during and after the forum. For inquiries, call Rocky Supan of the PCCI secretariat at 844-5713, fax 843-4102.

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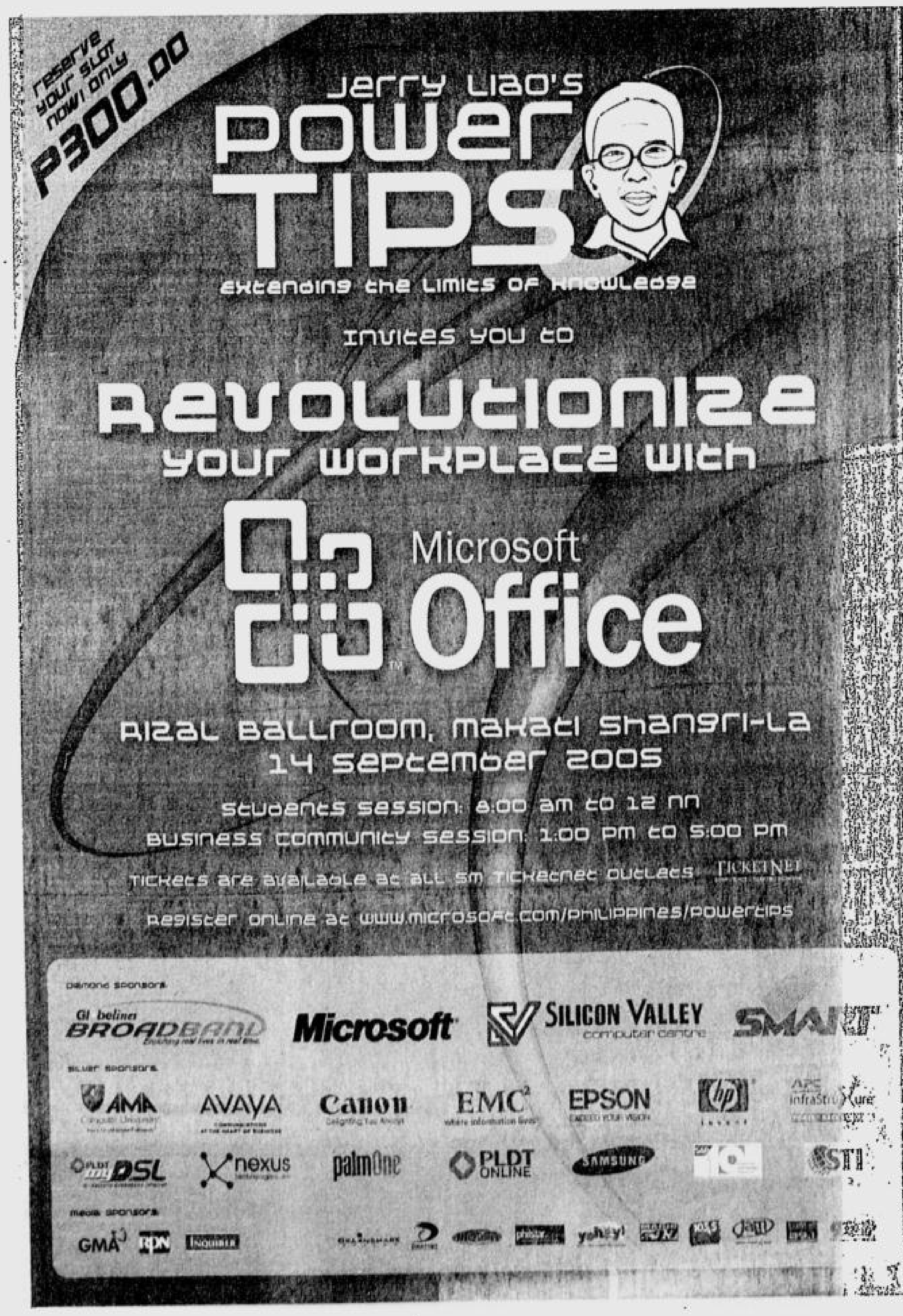

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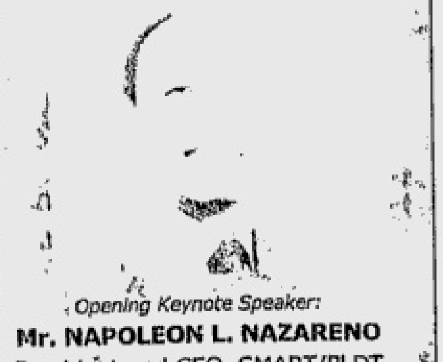

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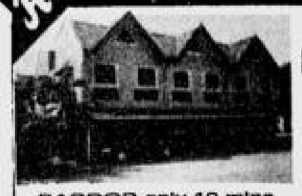

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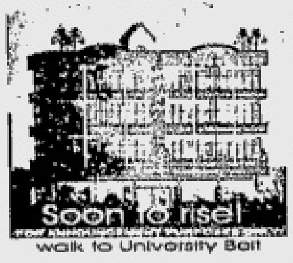

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PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo
171.78m² incl carpark fully furn
P30T rent P4M sale neg
0921-5790456 Aileen

PASIG

Renaissance3000 167m² 2br
P8.9M 6340695 0917-4742554

Chateau Verde 155m² 2br
P4.7M 6340695 0917-4742554

QUEZON CITY

AEROPOLIS 2 N. MLA PRESELL
STUD 2BR EASY TERMS
1M-2.5M MAYET • 09159358246

CONDO NR LIBIS
1.5M 2BR 50m² B-NEW 10%
DP move-in "EZ" terms
Ricky 0918-3238095

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

DUNHILL PARK VILLAS
P2.3M 1car grge 4BR 3T&B
439-1995•0920-9020858

Proj 6, QC : LA-82m² FA-145m² 3BR 3T&B 2CG New P4M 711-9051 DBO

TEACHERS VILLAGE
P3.8M 2car grge 4BR 4T&B
439-1995 • 0920-9020858

SAN JUAN

Nr. Ghills blg bful 5.6M 7270782

VARIED AREAS

10%DP Lipat Agad!
• Pasig Nr Libis / Ortigas P1.5M Up
• Mktl C5 Nr The Fort 1.3M Up
• Airport Nr SM Bicutan 1.3M Up
2-4BR Condo 0917-8169849

LOT

QUEZON CITY

★KATIPUNAN Ext Resl lot
nr UP Ateneo 204 to 408m²
P6,500/m² 0918-9236216★

LOT

SAN JUAN

Nr. Wilson St. 425m² 13M bes. Manhann Rest. 0917-8583378

CAVITE

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBD LOC: SILANG CAVITE W/ACCESS FR. AGUINALDO H-WAY, 8KM. FR RONINSONS & SM DASMARINAS RIPE FOR PROJECT DEV'T APPROXIMATELY 70HAS TYRINE CHUA - 2421309

OFFICE SPACE

Manda. 90-200sqm(RENT/SALE)
73-300sqm (Comm'l) 09192189817

MEMORIAL LOT

COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS
VISAYAS AVE 09166538631

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Poultry on Fenced 1½Has
Orchard Along Cemented Bgy.
Rd. Off Teresa Rizal 533-9225
OR 0920-9145862

FACTORY/WHSE

SUITABLE 4 MALL/SCHOOL
COMM'L/IND'L WHSE & LOT
10,193m² QC 4563243

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

ALABANG

141 Batangas West
Ayala Alabang 5BR 5TB
w/s-pool 0926-7102225

MARIKINA

4BR Bung. 3TB 3Pkg
Rancho • 636-5378 Purl

CAVITE

MOLINO, Semi Furnshd
P6500/ MO 2BR,T&B,GRGE 0920-6337953

APARTMENT

MANILA

1BR APT NR UNIV BELT, MKT & Q.C.
2069 MENANDRO ST. PANDACAN MLA
FOR INQUIRIES: ARNOLD
0927-9402972; NARDING 5834159

PARANAQUE

BIG STUDIO REG RUNNGH2O
NICE SUCAT 4500 8267250

PASAY

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872885

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P200I 8275345

P150I Manila 7836781 Daily,
Wkly 09228321888

BEDSPACE

Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974687

BUSINESS RENTAL

PTAMO nr BUENDIA
36-185m² 8903481 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976844-46
LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342
QUEZON CITY 3730239-40
CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3600
LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE

5th Floor. Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department Of Education Division Offices**, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	**Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs**
LOCATION	:	Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	:	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs Lot B : Secondary Armchairs Lot C : Elementary Tables & Chairs Lot D : Secondary Armchairs
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	:	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2004 and 2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION	:	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Arm Chairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Arm Chairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION I									
ILOCOS NORTE	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	543	651,600.00	791	435,050.00	1056	1,267,200.00	1533	843,150.00
LAOAG CITY	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	175	210,000.00	132	72,600.00	200	240,000.00	422	232,100.00
ILOCOS SUR	Vigan City, Ilocos Sur	1328	1,593,600.00	307	168,850.00	1143	1,371,600.00	3697	2,033,350.00
VIGAN CITY	Vigan City, Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	229	274,800.00	-	-
CANDON CITY	CandonCity, Ilocos Sur	-	-	-	-	202	242,400.00	-	-
LA UNION	San Fernando, La Union	501	601,200.00	2624	1,443,200.00	1808	2,169,600.00	3946	2,170,300.00
PANGASINAN I	Lingayen, Pangasinan	2100	2,520,000.00	2895	1,592,250.00	4784	5,740,800.00	6078	3,342,900.00
ALAMINOS CITY	Alaminos City	-	-	-	-	154	184,800.00	400	220,000.00
SAN CARLOS CITY	San Carlos City	224	268,800.00	630	346,500.00	480	576,000.00	543	298,650.00
PANGASINAN II	Binalonan, Pangasinan	1475	1,770,000.00	2361	1,298,550.00	3439	4,126,800.00	5304	2,917,200.00
DAGUPAN CITY	Dagupan City	250	300,000.00	192	105,600.00	450	540,000.00	176	96,800.00
URDANETA CITY	Urdaneta City	238	285,600.00	391	215,050.00	491	589,200.00	460	253,000.00
REGION II									
CAGAYAN	Tuguegarao, Cagayan	1520	1,824,000.00	2901	1,595,550.00	5675	6,810,000.00	5181	2,849,550.00
REGION III									
AURORA	Baler, Aurora	327	392,400.00	711	391,050.00	796	955,200.00	1737	955,350.00
BATAAN	Balanga, Bataan	1160	1,392,000.00	1099	604,450.00	2060	2,472,000.00	1581	869,550.00
BALANGA CITY	Balanga, Bataan	-	-	-	-	135	162,000.00	298	163,900.00
BULACAN	Malolos, Bulacan	4100	4,920,000.00	2447	1,345,850.00	7920	9,504,000.00	4999	2,749,450.00
MALOLOS CITY	Malolos, Bulacan	-	-	-	-	993	1,191,600.00	-	-
SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY	San Jose Del Monte City 115	500	600,000.00	1291	710,050.00	750	900,000.00	1848	1,016,400.00
NUEVA ECIJA	Cabanatuan City	2521	3,025,200.00	2790	1,534,500.00	5222	6,266,400.00	5938	3,265,900.00
MUNOZ SCIENCE CITY	Munoz, Nueva Ecija	-	-	-	-	235	282,000.00	107	58,850.00
CABANATUAN CITY	Cabanatuan City	484	580,800.00	265	145,750.00	760	912,000.00	415	228,250.00
GAPAN CITY	Gapan City	219	262,800.00	100	55,000.00	331	397,200.00	125	68,750.00
PAMPANGA	San Fernando, Pampanga	1260	1,512,000.00	5243	2,883,650.00	784	940,800.00	15571	8,564,050.00
ANGELES CITY	Angeles City	-	-	1685	926,750.00	989	1,186,800.00	-	-
SAN FERNANDO CITY	San Fernando, Pampanga	687	824,400.00	-	-	125	150,000.00	1775	976,250.00
TARLAC	Tarlac, Tarlac	1255	1,506,000.00	2794	1,536,700.00	3664	4,396,800.00	4416	2,428,800.00
TARLAC CITY	Tarlac, Tarlac	194	232,800.00	999	549,450.00	1135	1,362,000.00	-	-
ZAMBALES	Iba, Zambales	554	664,800.00	1712	941,600.00	1406	1,687,200.00	4023	2,212,650.00
OLONGAPO CITY	Olongapo City	552	662,400.00	-	-	275	330,000.00	1502	826,100.00
REGION IV-A									
TANAUAN CITY	Tanauan City	200	240,000.00	295	162,250.00	236	283,200.00	518	284,900.00
LIPA CITY	Lipa City	90	108,000.00	1063	584,650.00	90	108,000.00	1719	945,450.00
LUCENA CITY	Lucena City	-	-	1152	633,600.00	1035	1,242,000.00	-	-
RIZAL	Cabrera Rd., Hilltop, Taytay	2737	3,284,400.00	3855	2,120,250.00	6517	7,820,400.00	4253	2,339,150.00
ANTIPOLO CITY	Antipolo City	1325	1,590,000.00	1926	1,059,300.00	2225	2,670,000.00	3236	1,779,800.00
REGION IV-B									
MARINDUQUE	Boac, Marinduque	800	820,000.00	598	285,180.00	1650	1,691,250.00	1229	596,065.00
OCCIDENTAL MINDORO	Mamburao, Occ. Mindoro	1050	1,260,000.00	1453	799,150.00	2565	3,078,000.00	4146	2,280,300.00
ORIENTAL MINDORO	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	1720	1,763,000.00	2572	1,211,412.00	6094	6,236,350.00	2449	1,153,479.00
CALAPAN CITY	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	349	418,800.00	300	165,000.00	601	721,200.00	376	206,800.00
PALAWAN	Puerto Princesa City	1667	2,000,400.00	2088	1,148,400.00	6350	7,620,000.00	4434	2,438,700.00
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY	Puerto Princesa City	425	425,000.00	1052	472,348.00	975	975,000.00	1122	503,778.00
REGION V									
ALBAY	Legaspi City, Albay	1950	2,340,000.00	2663	1,464,650.00	5605	6,726,000.00	6890	3,789,500.00
TABACO CITY	Tabaco City, Albay	323	387,600.00	352	193,600.00	480	576,000.00	444	244,200.00
LEGASPI CITY	Legaspi City, Albay	300	360,000.00	349	191,950.00	658	789,600.00	626	344,300.00
LIGAO CITY	Ligao City	327	392,400.00	331	182,050.00	559	670,800.00	458	251,900.00
CAMARINES NORTE	Daet, Camarines Norte	1118	1,341,600.00	1507	828,850.00	3118	3,741,600.00	3689	2,028,950.00
CAMARINES SUR	Naga City	2861	3,433,200.00	5680	3,124,000.00	9616	11,539,200.00	11257	6,191,350.00
NAGA CITY	Naga City	174	208,800.00	564	310,200.00	469	562,800.00	521	286,550.00
IRIGA CITY	Iriga City	215	258,000.00	150	82,500.00	331	397,200.00	283	155,650.00
CATANDUANES	Virac, Catanduanes	580	696,000.00	649	356,950.00	1525	1,830,000.00	1797	988,350.00
MASBATE	Masbate City, Masbate	1766	2,119,200.00	2804	1,542,200.00	5539	6,646,800.00	6500	3,575,000.00
MASBATE CITY	Masbate City, Masbate	300	360,000.00	289	158,950.00	520	624,000.00	544	299,200.00
SORSOGON	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	1710	2,052,000.00	2029	1,115,950.00	4872	5,846,400.00	4758	2,616,900.00
SORSOGON CITY	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	305	366,000.00	465	255,750.00	426	511,200.00	490	269,500.00
REGION VI									
CAPIZ	Roxas City, Capiz	1000	1,200,000.00	3038	1,670,900.00	2120	2,544,000.00	7047	3,875,850.00
ROXAS CITY	Roxas City, Capiz	315	378,000.00	83	45,650.00	557	668,400.00	120	66,000.00
GUIMARAS	Jordan, Guimaras	441	529,200.00	-	-	1157	1,388,400.00	1099	604,450.00
ILOILO	Iloilo City, Iloilo	3181	3,817,200.00	5550	3,052,500.00	10759	12,910,800.00	10304	5,667,200.00
PASSI CITY	Passi City, Iloilo	177	212,400.00	80	44,000.00	273	327,600.00	90	49,500.00
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	2530	3,036,000.00	4727	2,599,850.00	4588	5,505,600.00	10344	5,689,200.00
CADIZ CITY	Cadiz City	431	517,200.00	-	-	89	106,800.00	1263	694,650.00
SAGAY CITY	Sagay City, Negros Occ.	251	301,200.00	191	105,050.00	461	553,200.00	252	138,600.00
SILAY CITY	Silay City	367	440,400.00	-	-	-	-	1135	624,250.00
BAGO CITY	Bago City	250	300,000.00	470	258,500.00	215	258,000.00	981	539,550.00
LA CARLOTA CITY	La Carlota City	100	120,000.00	151	83,050.00	178	213,600.00	158	86,900.00
KABANKALAN CITY	Kabankalan City	636	763,200.00	-	-	234	280,800.00	1285	706,750.00
BACOLOD CITY	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	1125	1,350,000.00	-	-	353	423,600.00	2743	1,508,650.00
ILOILO CITY	Iloilo City, Iloilo	426	511,200.00	927	509,850.00	645	774,000.00	1407	773,850.00
REGION VII									
TAGBILARAN CITY	Tagbilaran City	-	-	486	267,300.00	385	448,525.00	-	-
TALISAY CITY	Talisay City	238	285,600.00	350	192,500.00	630	756,000.00	338	185,900.00
TOLEDO CITY	Toledo City	220	264,000.00	210	115,500.00	500	600,000.00	238	130,900.00
LAPU-LAPU CITY	Lapu-Lapu City	360	432,000.00	1141	627,550.00	650	780,000.00	1067	586,850.00
DANAO CITY	Danao City	132	118,800.00	524	235,800.00	177	159,300.00	920	414,000.00
BAIS CITY	Bais City	-	-	-	-	270	270,000.00	504	252,000.00
SIQUIJOR	Larena, Siquijor	128	115,200.00	290	130,500.00	136	122,400.00	735	330,750.00
REGION IX									
ISABELA CITY	Isabela City	330	363,000.00	189	103,950.00	520	572,000.00	85	46,750.00
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE	Dipolog City	1488	1,785,600.00	1728	950,400.00	4988	5,985,600.00	1674	920,700.00
DAPITAN CITY	Dapitan City	82	98,400.00	182	100,100.00	160	192,000.00	344	189,200.00
DIPOLOG CITY	Dipolog City	182	218,400.00	200	110,000.00	322	386,400.00	337	185,350.00
ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR	Pagadian City	2728	3,374,673.00	-	-	5171	6,396,788.00	2610	1,435,500.00
PAGADIAN CITY	Pagadian City	350	420,000.00	372	204,600.00	575	690,000.00	417	229,350.00
ZAMBOANGA CITY	Zamboanga City	1245	1,494,000.00	2001	1,100,550.00	1641	1,969,200.00	3200	1,760,000.00
REGION X									
BUKIDNON	Malaybalay, Bukidnon	4312	5,174,400.00	-	-	7621	9,145,200.00	8983	4,940,650.00
CAMIGUIN	Mambajao, Camiguin	125	150,000.00	259	142,450.00	445	534,000.00	171	94,050.00
LANAO DEL NORTE	Tubod, Lanao del Norte	1122	1,346,400.00	1229	675,950.00	3625	4,350,000.00	1789	983,950.00
ILIGAN CITY	Iligan City	515	618,000.00	1035	569,250.00	1080	1,296,000.00	1306	718,300.00
OROQUIETA CITY	Oroquieta City	-	-	-	-	185	222,000.00	248	136,400.00
OZAMIZ CITY	Ozamis City	212	254,400.00	449	246,950.00	275	330,000.00	585	321,750.00
TANGUB CITY	Tangub City	-	-	-	-	160	192,000.00	269	147,950.00
REGION XI									
COMPOSTELA VALLEY		1200	1,440,000.00	2271	1,249,050.00	3810	4,572,000.00	2999	1,649,450.00
DAVAO DEL NORTE	Tagum City, Davao	1317	1,580,400.00	1124	618,200.00	2897	3,476,400.00	2259	1,242,450.00
TAGUM CITY	Tagum City, Davao	400	480,000.00	630	346,500.00	680	816,000.00	573	315,150.00
PANABO CITY	Panabo City	457	548,400.00	453	249,150.00	635	762,000.00	627	344,850.00
IGACOS (SAMAL)	Samal	-	-	-	-	155	186,000.00	303	166,650.00
DAVAO DEL SUR	Digos, Davao del Sur	1112	1,315,182.40	2391	1,315,050.00	2750	3,252,425.00	5923	3,257,650.00
DIGOS CITY	Digos City	565	678,000.00	300	165,000.00	970	1,164,000.00	400	220,000.00
DAVAO ORIENTAL	Mati, Davao Oriental	1346	1,615,200.00	348	191,400.00	1987	2,384,400.00	4013	2,207,150.00
DAVAO CITY	Davao City	2220	2,664,000.00	5210	2,865,500.00	3628	4,353,600.00	7092	3,900,600.00
REGION XII									
COTABATO	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	3131	3,757,200.00	1401	770,550.00	7992	9,590,400.00	1566	861,300.00
KIDAPAWAN CITY	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	212	254,400.00	205	112,750.00	273	327,600.00	421	231,550.00
SARANGANI	Alabel, Sarangani	1440	1,728,000.00	500	275,000.00	3144	3,772,800.00	2023	1,112,650.00
SOUTH COTABATO	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	1210	1,452,000.00	1930	1,061,500.00	3924	4,708,800.00	1914	1,052,700.00
GENERAL SANTOS CITY	Gen. Santos City	1100	1,320,000.00	998	548,900.00	1225	1,470,000.00	1763	969,650.00
KORONADAL CITY	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	350	420,000.00	425	233,750.00	400	480,000.00	727	399,850.00
SULTAN KUDARAT	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	2457	2,948,400.00	483	265,650.00	4139	4,966,800.00	4198	2,308,900.00
TACURONG CITY	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	-	-	-	-	561	673,200.00	644	354,200.00
COTABATO CITY	Cotabato City	200	240,000.00	1062	584,100.00	785	942,000.00	646	355,300.00
REGION XIII									
SURIGAO DEL NORTE	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte	593	711,600.00	748	411,400.00	594	712,800.00	3006	1,653,300.00
SURIGAO CITY	Surigao City, Surigao del Norte	216	259,200.00	348	191,400.00	302	362,400.00	537	295,350.00
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)									
PASAY CITY	P. Burgos Elem. Sch. Pasay	336	403,200.00	1900	1,045,000.00	722	866,400.00	1900	1,045,000.00
CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (CAR)									
ABRA	Bangued, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1477	812,350.00
APAYAO	Kabugao, Apayao	151	181,200.00	419	230,450.00	650	780,000.00	633	348,150.00
BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1083	595,650.00	615	738,000.00	-	-
BENGUET	La Trinidad, Benguet	390	468,000.00	460	253,000.00	1250	1,500,000.00	1156	635,800.00
IFUGAO	Lagawe, Ifugao	310	372,000.00	400	220,000.00	557	668,400.00	1219	670,450.00
KALINGA	Tabuk, Kalinga	625	750,000.00	864	475,200.00	1200	1,440,000.00	1005	552,750.00
MT. PROVINCE	Bontoc, Mt. Province	200	240,000.00	216	118,800.00	1500	1,800,000.00	1169	642,950.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Offices** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **September 20, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Offices.**

Bids must be received on or before **October 6, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Dates of Publication: September 7 & 14, 2005
Newspaper: Philippine Daily Inquirer

Schools First Means Students First

A Japanese-owned call center is hiring:

- ***Senior Team Managers***
- ***Team Managers***
- ***Systems Engineers***
- ***Agents***
- ***Admin Assistants***

Applicants must know how to speak Japanese. Japanese nationals and students residing in the Philippines are welcome to apply.

Interested applicants may submit their resumés online to lerma.advincula@advinlaw.com

Interviews will be on 10 September 2005 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati. Submit your resumés now!

We are a unique company offering flat rate calling service to OFWs. This is a golden opportunity to be a part of the start-up team. Come in at the ground level and grow with us.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE

FOR LEASE

1. OFFICE SPACES
   Legaspi / Salcedo Vill. Makati
2. STORE SPACES / WAREHOUSES
   Dasmariñas,Cavite
   Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Piñas
   P. Cruz St., Mandaluyong City
3. CHEMICAL TANKS
   Bauan, Batangas

ALL RENTAL-NEGOTIABLE
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEGUNDO SOLOMON & ESTER DEL MONTE has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc #628, Page 128, Book XI, Series of 2005 before notary public Marcial Pe Benito of manila.
(PDI-Aug. 24, 31, & Sept. 7, 2005)

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REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road
Quezon City

AGENCY : Land Registration Authority
POSITION : Deputy Register of Deeds II;
SALARY GRADE : 21
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT : Regions 5;
ITEM NUMBERS : LRAB-DRD2-5
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS : Bachelor of Laws; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; RA 1080

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUSINESS SEPARATION AND UNBUNDLING PLAN (BSUP) AND ACCOUNTING AND COST ALLOCATION MANUAL (ACAM) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF SECTION 36 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND RULE 10 OF ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

ERC CASE NO. 2005-212 MC

LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II),
Applicant.
x---x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on April 13, 2005 by Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II) of an application docketed as ERC Case No. 2005-212 MC for approval of its: (1) Business Separation and Unbundling Plan (BSUP); and (2) Accounting and Cost Allocation Manual (ACAM), in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 of Republic Act No. 9136 and Rule 10 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on September 16, 2005 (Friday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 p.m.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 8th day of August, 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) MARIA TERESA A. R. CASTAÑEDA
Executive Director

(PDI - Sept. 7, 2005)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
COLLECTION DISTRICT VI
PORT OF ILOILO
5000 ILOILO CITY

September 2, 2005

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provision of Section 2601, other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines and CMO 5-2003, there will be a PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (Sealed Bidding) to be conducted at the Office of the Chairman, Special Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee, Bureau of Customs, Port of Iloilo, Iloilo City on September 22, 2005 of the hereunder listed various articles. Said items/goods shall be available for public viewing anytime prior to the date of the schedule of auction. *In the event of failed bidding, the same shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day following the first failed bidding at the same time and place with no reduction of the floor price and without need for further advertisement, except as to perishable items which may be auctioned again on the following business day.* When at least two (2) of the sealed bids submitted in an auction fall within ten (10%) percent of the highest bid, the same should be above the floor price (clustering). Those in the cluster shall immediately go into an open bidding with the highest sealed bid serving as the new floor price of the lot being sold.

The winning bidder shall be required to pay fifty percent (50%) of the bid price either in cash and/or manager's check at the end of the bidding. For meritorious reason, said bidder may be allowed to make such payment not later than two (2) hours from the awarding of the won bid. The remaining balance of fifty percent (50%) of the bid price shall be paid within the next business day.

IMPORTANT:

Only registered bidder who have paid the Registration Fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00) and Cash Bond (Refundable) of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php20,000.00) are eligible to participate in the auction sale.

Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. and will close at 10:00 a.m.

For further inquiry, please contact the District Collector, Port of Iloilo at Bureau of Customs telephone number (033) 335-0998 or the Chairman, Special Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee at telephone number (033) 337-5834.

LOT NO. 1	S.I. No. 01-01-A M/V MURPHY
Location: BREDCO Bacolod City	Length: 60.62 meters; Breadth: 11.00 meters; Depth: 6.00 meters; Draught: 4.5 meters; Gross Tonnage: 423.00 GT; Net Tonnage: 382.00 NT; Engine: Niigata; Horse Power: 1,600 HP; No. of Cylinder: 1 pc.; No. of Engine: 1 pc.; Year Built: 1983; Type of Service: General Cargo. EQUIPMENT FOUND INSIDE M/V MURPHY.
1st Advertisement "As is Where Is"	One (1) Unit Used ICOM, Automatic Antenna Tuner AT-120 VHF - Transceiver, One (1) Unit Used DC Regulated Power Supply 15 amperes; One (1) Unit Used FORONO GPS Navigator; One (1) Unit Used Marine Radar Equipment JMA 2254, LD 58659; One (1) Unit Used 14" TV Cinemaborg CATV Autovolt; One (1) Unit Used Fire Alarm Control Panel; One (1) Unit Telephone Al Phone, Model: TB, 12H; One (1) Unit New Resco Pilot with Compass PR 2000, Tokyo Keiki Jyro Source; One (1) Pc. Small Citizen Clock, quartz; One (1) Pc. Small Starboard (dark/bright); One (1) Pc. Used Uniden MC 625 Radio; One (1) Pc. Used Battery Charger Izuki; Two (2) Drums Full of Caltex Delo 1000 Marine SAE 40; Two (2) Pcs. Used Truck Battery (11 plates); One (1) Pc., Used Refrigerator (Sharp); Five (5) Pcs. Empty/Used, TW 39.0; Eleven (11) Pcs. Empty/Used Acetylene Tank (big); Four (4) Pcs. Used Fire Extinguisher, WT 6.48 Kgs.; Four (4) Pcs. Empty/Used Small Acetylene Tank.
Floor Price: Php10,000,000.00	OTHER INFORMATION: M/V Murphy has One (1) Unit Used Crane with Hatches, One (1) Unit Engine, with Rope.

(Sgd.) ATTY. DENNIS A. AZARRAGA
District Collector

(PDI - Sept. 7, 2005)

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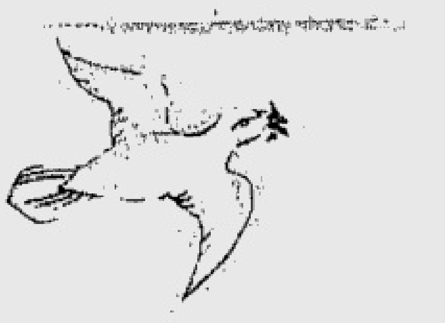

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In Loving Memory

Dr. ROSELI C. OCAMPO - FRIEDMANN

(November 20, 1937 - September 4, 2005)
of
Imus, Cavite and Tallahassee, Florida, USA

Her bereaved mother, Generosa C. Ocampo, only brother, ELISEO C. OCAMPO, JR. children Ma. Roseli O. Paus-Romp (Pinky) and Rodolfo O. Paus, Jr. (Jack), relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will be interred after funeral mass and services at a Catholic Church in Seattle, Washington, USA.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

We,
the breaved family and relatives of

DIONISIO B. BAUTISTA

of Cabanatuan City
(1927 - 2005)

who peacefully joined
our Creator on August 21, 2005

wish to sincerely thank all who sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us and showed in many different ways their moral and spiritual support, love and care during our moments of grief.

Thank you.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY WATER DISTRICT
263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. 433-2408, 433-5032, 433-6802
Fax No. (48) 433-6803

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Puerto Princesa City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	**Construction of 800 cu.m. Concrete Ground Reservoir**
Location	**Manalo cor. Lacao St., Puerto Princesa City**
Brief Description	**Construction of 800 cu.m. Concrete Ground Reservoir**
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	**Five Million Three Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Pesos and Sixty-six Centavos (P5,348,600.66)**
Contract Duration	**Ninety (90) Calendar Days**

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shal be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR)

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	On or before September 20, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Upon receipt of LOI
3. Receipt of Eligibility requirements	On or before September 27, 2005; 5:00 p.m.
4. Opening of Eligibility Envelopes	September 28, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room
5. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 29, 2005
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 1-15, 2005
7. Pre-bid Conference	October 17, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room
8. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 31, 2005, 1:30 p.m. PPCWD BOD Room

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at 263 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Hundred Pesos (P100.00) to the PPCWD Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC with Issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the PPCWD Cashier.

The PPCWD assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) Engr. **VICENTE D. ABREA**
PPCWD BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 7 & 14, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers registered by the G-EPS and accredited supplier of General Santos City for Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects/proposals.

Purchase of Electrical Supplies P4,132,780.00 and Purchase of Flood Control materials/supplies P4,524,390.00

Issuance of Bid Documents – September 2-7, 2005 (BAC Office, 2nd Flr. Right wing, City Hall, GSC)
Pre-Bidding Conference – September 8, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room
Dropping of Bids – September 22, 2005, 10:00 AM BAC Office
Opening of Bids – September 22, 2005, 10:00, City Mayor's Conference Room

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidders are required to submit a Tax Clearance w/ audited financial statements duly stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institution pursuant to circular no. 01-2004 of GPPB.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The City Government assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid and also reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in situations set forth in Section 41 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

(Sgd.)**RODRIGO O. SALANGSANG**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC
Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for 2005 intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso Six Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Four Hundred (Php6,560,000.00) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of *PNOC EC* Energy Supply Base (BX04-577). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *September 21, 2005 @4:00 P.M.* at *PNOC EC Contracts Group, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (Php500.00)**. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on *September 28, 2005 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.* Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* on or before *3:00 P.M. of September 28, 2005.*

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on October 7, 2005.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Php2,000.00 pesos*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *October 13, 2005 @ 4:00 P.M.*

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***October 14, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Malnaga, Mabini, Batangas.***

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *3:00 P.M. of October 26, 2005*. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Surety Bond* and in an amount of *Php164,000.00 Pesos* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *October 26, 2005, at 3:15 P.M. in PNOC EC Conference Room Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by *Ninety (90) Calendar Days.*

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC Exploration Corporation
Jose M. Eijansantos, BAC Chairman
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
D/L – 8401416, Fax 8401419

(Sgd.)Jose M. Eijansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC.
Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal
PGH Compound, Taft Avenue Manila

The Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) has received a grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) for the "**Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines.**"

FECFI invites sealed bids from construction firms for the construction and completion of a covered waiting area beside the main entrance of the Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal consisting of reinforced concrete foundation, metal structure and reflective polycarbonate roofing. The waiting area to be constructed is of approximate 130 sqm.

Interested bidders may purchase Bidding Documents from the office of Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. Sentro Oftalmológico Jose Rizal, PGH Compound, Taft Ave., Manila starting Wednesday, September 7, 2005. **Deadline of submission is on September 19, 2005, 2pm**. For clarification, you may contact at Tel. No. 404-3738.

The FECFI reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect herein and to accept the offer as may be considered most advantageous to the Foundation. The FECFI will not answer any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective proposals, nor will the FECFI guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARITA V. T. REYES, MD**

(PDI-Sept. 7 & 8,2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps
(Reference No.: PB050629-LE0059)

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of **Php 2,500,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **PR No. OVPSO-05-0010890, Supply and Delivery of Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Supply and Delivery of Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps.** Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A., 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below from **September 07, 2005 to October 04, 2005 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **Php 1,000.00.** The method of payment will be *Cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on **September 21, 2005/1:00 PM** at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 05, 2005/2:00 PM.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget For the Contract to Be Bid
1 Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or P25,000.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or P37,500.00
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) or P62,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P2,500,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on **October 05, 2005/2:00 PM** at the *Admin Conference Room same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
NMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812205 /(632) 9812241
Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO N. OCHOA**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – September 7, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Masinloc

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The office of Bids and Awards Committee invites registered suppliers classified on Registration and Classification of Contractors to apply for pre-qualification and to submit bids for the following supplies:

Description of Supplies

1.) Procurement of one (1) unit Ambulance
2.) Procurement of various medical eqpmt. for the Birthing Stn./Lying-in Clinic

Interested suppliers may obtain their pre-qualification statements and bid documents from BAC Chairman, Municipality of Masinloc, Province of Zambales upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos only (PhP1,000.00).

Suppliers shall submit to the BAC not later than 10:00 a.m., Sept. 29, 2005 a) duly accomplished per-qualification stmnts. b) proposal for said project using the prescribe bid form. All particulars shall be governed by the provisions of IRR-RA 9184 concerning Gov't Procurement Reform Act.

Pre-Bid Conference : Sept. 22, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.
Bid Opening : Sept. 29, 2005 @ 10:00 a.m.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids. To waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expenses of loss that it may incur in the preparation of its bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ELLENDER C. ECLEVIA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Aug. 31 & Sept 7, 2005)

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  **applies only to IDD calls to the US Mainland. IDD Calls to Hawaii, Alaska, US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are not included in this promo offer.*
- Calls outside the 5 destinations mentioned above will be charged the regular applicable IDD rate.
- Sun Cellular will use the Peso equivalent of the US$0.20 IDD rate per minute following the NTC prescribed peso-dollar exchange rate issued at the beginning of the transaction month.

For POSTPAID subscribers only

- For postpaid subscribers, all calls made to the five destinations will be automatically charged the US$0.20 per minute rate starting on the 1st minute of the call and will be reflected in the Statement of Account (SOA) during the promo duration.

For PREPAID subscribers only

- **IDD Top 5** load credit balance will be reflected in minutes. A Php100.00 **IDD Top 5** load will provide approximately nine (9) minutes of IDD credit (subject to prescribed FOREX rate) with a validity period of seven (7) days starting from the day you load it to your prepaid account.
- If you use up your **IDD Top 5** load credit during a call, the call will be automatically terminated even if you have regular load in your account. If you have sufficient regular load and wish to continue your IDD call, you may dial again. However, the regular rates per minute will apply.
- Your **IDD Top 5** load cannot be converted to any other Sun Cellular load (regular or other reload variants). It cannot be used for calls other than the **IDD Top 5** destinations and for other voice and SMS transactions.
- Any unused/remaining **IDD Top 5** load credit in your prepaid account at the end of the promo period will remain valid and may still be used until fully consumed or until the lapse of the seven (7) day validity period, whichever comes first.
- After the promo period, any **IDD Top 5** call card which has not been loaded into an account will automatically be converted to Php 100 worth of **24/7 Call and Text Unlimited** reload, with the corresponding seven (7) day validity period from date of loading.
- Postpaid and prepaid subscribers may purchase **IDD Top 5** load for their relatives, friends and loved ones with Sun Cellular prepaid subscription by doing any of the following transactions:

1. **Via SMS**
   Text Top5 <space> 100 and send to 255
2. **Via The Mall**
   Enter The Mall. Follow the menu path:
   a. **For postpaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Postpaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100
   b. **For prepaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Prepaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100

Note: For postpaid subscriber purchases via SMS or The Mall, IDD Top 5 load will be charged separately from the Monthly Service Fee. Prepaid subscriber purchases will be automatically deducted from the regular load in your account.

After your request has been processed via SMS or The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series *220# followed by a 14-digit number string and the # sign. Once you receive this number string, you may send it to a prepaid subscriber via SMS or by calling. The recipient should:

- Key in *220# followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign (Ensure that there are no spaces between characters)
- Press **SEND**
- A text message will display the updated load balance.

Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4895 Series of 2005.

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STRONG energy lines give the illusion that the vehicle is in motion even at a standstill.

The 'focused' onslaught of the 'Blue Oval'

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of two parts)

IN A MOVE TO ENTICE AN emerging generation of Asian car buyers with an eye for the "C-car" segment, Ford recently introduced the Focus.

This isn't just any "C car" from the Blue Oval's office. The Focus is a decorated "war veteran." First introduced in North America and Europe in 1998, Ford boasts that it was Car of the Year in both continents and has since won more than 75 international awards.

Now, seven years after conquering America and Europe, Ford releases the Focus in Asia including China. The big question that remains is, with all the stars and stripes of accolades, does the Focus have what it takes to also conquer the hearts of Asians?

'Flying' Focus

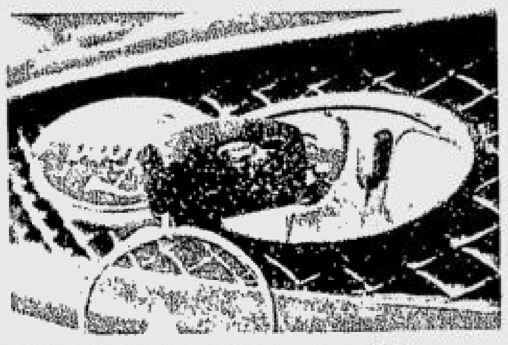
In the Philippines, Ford spared no expense in making the presence of Focus felt. In a dazzling display of special effects laced with adrenalin, audiences at the Araneta Coliseum during the UAAP inaugural game between Ateneo de Manila University and La Salle saw a Focus—or a replica of one—fly above and around the court. (Afterward, German events specialist Murti Jung claimed responsibility for the feat).

No more Focuses were seen flying after that, but nevertheless, the local motoring public was bombarded with dealership launches (of Focus), print and TV ads. By now, Filipinos must be aware that the Focus is a combination of "European styling" and "German engineering"—words that are most commonly equated to prestige and power in cars today.

Serious spin

Ford's marketing blitz for the Focus covered all fronts, including, of course, the media. Just recently, 10 motoring journalists from the Philippines were invited to the Bira Track in Pattaya, Thailand, to give the Focus a serious spin.

One of the first briefings journalists were given about the Focus was its adaptation to Asian tastes. However, Ford executives and engineers reiterated, the Focus was, and still is, of a strong European heritage, with the styling and precision of German engineering on a platform of the Volvo S40.



HOOD popper requires a key to open.

The 2.4-km Bira track is a preferred test ground for new cars, because it is a "technical track"—with many different types of corners and elevations and short straightaways that test the power and handling capabilities of both car and driver.

The Focus units tested were the four-door sedan (1.8-liter 125 ps at 6,000 rpm, 165Nm of torque at 4,000 rpm) and the 2-liter five-door hatchback (145 ps at 6,000 rpm and 185Nm at 4,500 rpm, to be introduced in the Philippines late 2005). Both cars were powered by Duratec engines.

For comparison drives, two of the region's class-leading competitors—the Toyota Altis and the Honda Civic—were also on hand.

Track tests

For the Filipino motoring journalists present, the track tests were another opportunity to drive to the extreme and at the same time get "reacquainted" with right-hand driving—two tasks that are already difficult to do by themselves, let alone do both.

The "panic" brake tests with the Focus showed confident results. At speeds of 80 kph, drivers slammed on the brakes without holding the steering wheel. The antilock brake system (ABS) of the Focus worked just fine, as the car kept a near-perfect straight line in rapid deceleration. The brake tests were repeated many times. And the Focus' shortest stopping distance was ably supported by 300-mm front discs and 280-mm rear discs.

The slalom drive, on the other hand, tested the steering responses of the Focus. Without stepping on the brakes, drivers maneuvered

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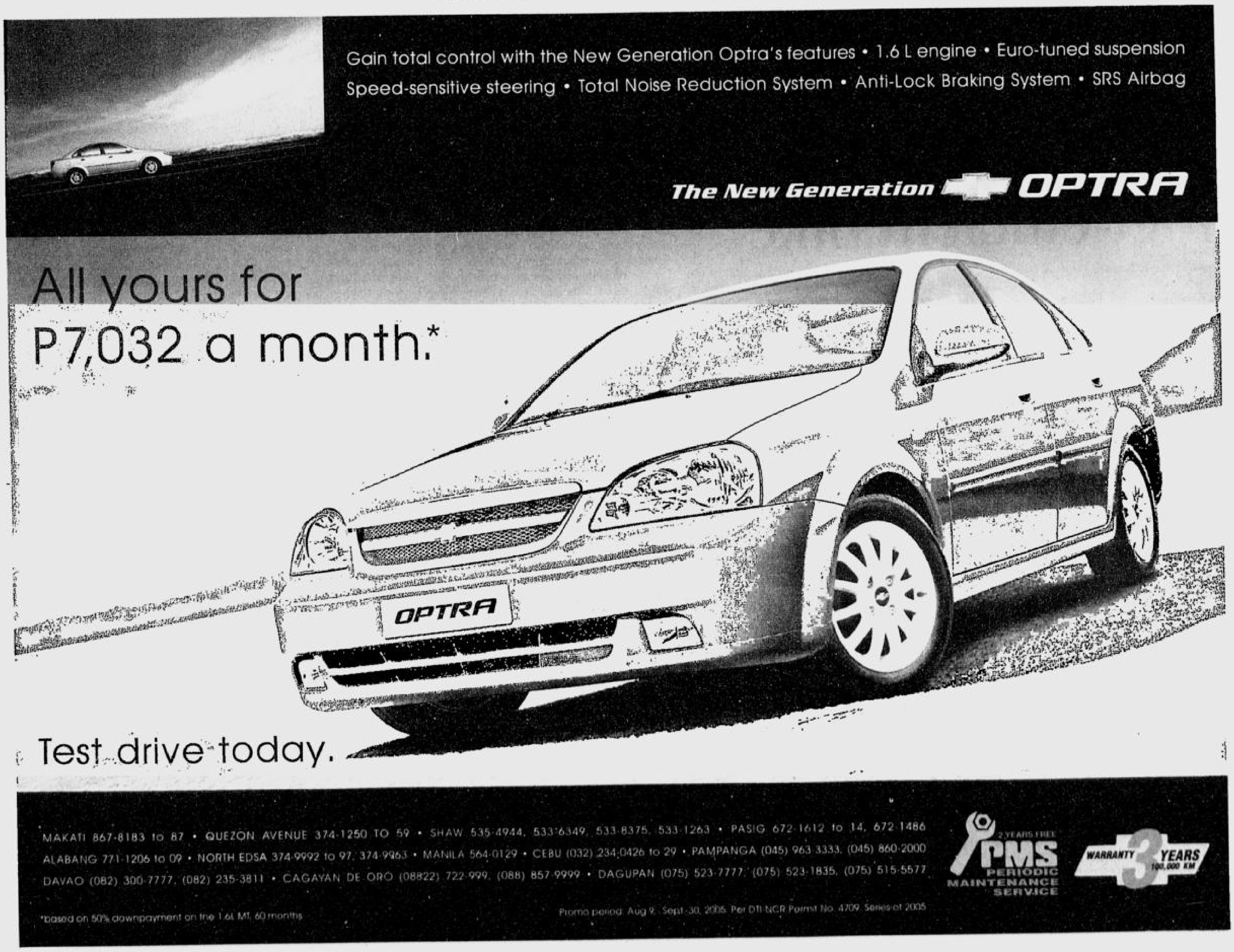

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Isuzu asserts diesel supremacy in RP

By Charles E. Buban

THREE YEARS AGO, THE World Bank has reported that air pollution in the Philippines has worsened, resulting in 2,000 annual deaths and forcing its four largest and densely populated urban areas (Baguio, Manila, Cebu and Davao) to spend $1.5 billion (P84.1 billion) annually in health cost from lost wages and medical treatment.

The report blamed smoke-belching public buses, jeepneys, utility vehicles and trucks as among the contributors to the four cities' elevated air pollution level.

Although much has been planned and done to regulate these vehicles, the situation has remained largely unchanged.

This is mainly due to a large number of vehicles on the road today (around five million) that are still being stretched for a longer useful life (mostly diesel-run commercial and utility vehicles). Although these vehicles can still run, these units are already repair-prone, fuel inefficient and no longer compliant to the country's Clean Air Act.

Older type

Although lauded for having better fuel economy and longer engine life (compared to gasoline-fed engines), most of the diesel engines in use today are older type and thus, produce more pollutants, including particulate matters that could cause mild to severe respiratory illnesses and nitrogen oxides that are a major contributor to ground ozone production and smog.

"Isuzu Philippines (IPC) wants to change this landscape with the launch of the Isuzu Powertrain, a major business endeavor of the company that will provide both institutional and individual clients complete solutions to their transport needs," says IPC president Yoshifumi Komura.

Isuzu Powertrain's main thrust is to replace existing diesel-run vehicles and provide more realistic solution to organizations or individuals who could not afford to replace their fleet with brand-new units.

Brand new

"Through Isuzu Powertrain, we will now be able to provide brand-new Isuzu diesel engines and other components to assemblers of jeepneys, owners of bus and truck fleets, and even those in the industrial and marine business," reveals IPC vice president for corporate business Arthur Balmadrid.

He reveals that the Philippines is the first country outside Japan to have this program.

"IPC is going beyond its role of just being an automotive assembler and distributor. With the Isuzu Powertrain, the company wants to become a much more responsible partner by providing products that will not only help businesses but also promote safety and environmental awareness," says Komura.

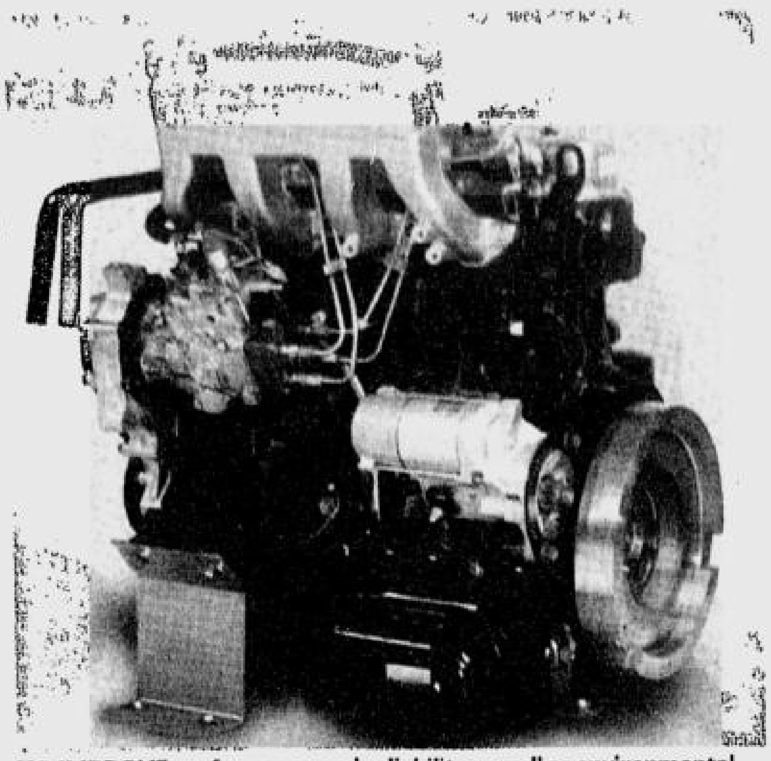
Total solution

For its partners in the automotive industry, Isuzu Powertrain will provide total solutions for its clients' engine requirements ranging from 80 to 270 horsepower as well as drive train components (engine, transmission, front/rear axles and suspensions) for trucks, buses, jeepneys and other commercial vehicles.

"Until recently, jeepney and bus assemblers can only get reconditioned engines and drive train components for their units. Through the Isuzu Powertrain, we can now provide them with brand-new and latest generation diesel engines," assures Balmadrid.

In a related development, IPC also unveiled its latest N-Series of light trucks (more popularly known as Isuzu Elf) that features an upgraded fascia to reflect the company's fresh and modern approach to designing light trucks.

"Apart from a reliable and Euro compliant powerplant, the 2005 N-Series now sports a one-piece large multireflector lamp, six-hole design radiator grille design, more trendy side-view mirrors and newly designed seat upholstery," describes Balmadrid.



TO IMPROVE performance and reliability as well as environmental compliance, Isuzu hopes to replace older diesel engines with its latest generation models, including this 4JB1, which is suitable for jeepneys.

Industrial clients

Isuzu Powertrain will also benefit its clients in industrial business by providing them with a wide range of four- to six-cylinder diesel engines (for generator sets, forklifts and heavy equipment) and even for the air condition (auxiliary engine) of buses.

"Also, Isuzu Powertrain will also provide marine engines ranging from 67 to 750 horsepower including gear box and marine generators needed by commercial fishing vessels, ships, yacht and other pleasure boats," reveals Balmadrid.

Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza, during the program's unveiling at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City, believes the use of much-improved new-generation diesel engines and drivetrain components by Isuzu should serve as a logical option for the market while the country looks for a more long-term solution to improve its mass transport system and quality of the air.

"With the support of the government and other companies like Francisco Motors, Denyo Co., and Centro Manufacturing Corp., I am confident that the Isuzu's Powertrain will go a long way in helping businesses as well as our environment," says Mendoza.

The sight and sound of a bold comeback

By Tessa R. Salazar

THE ENGINE OF THE NEW diesel-powered SUV (sport utility vehicle) we were about to test drive, like any engine of its type, shuddered to life as we turned the ignition. Strange, but as we ran its paces, that familiar "takatak" of the engine seemed to fade. And then we realized we were running just as fast as any gasoline-fed car on the highway, and with plenty of gas pedal space to spare at that.

We were on Kia's new "wonder boy" of an SUV, the 2.5-liter Kia Sorento CRDI (common-rail direct injection diesel engine) turbo charged and intercooled at that. And we couldn't help but enjoy driving ourselves (10 of us motoring journalists) around the forests and unpaved trails of the Subic Bay area, feeling less guilty of depleting the world's limited supply of oil just to determine (irony of all ironies) how fuel-efficient this new SUV was.

Perfect day

July 30 was the perfect day for Columbian Autocar Corp, the exclusive distributor of Kia in the Philippines, to meet the motoring press and introduce its centerpiece Sorento, as it was also its CEO Felix J. Mabilog Jr.'s birthday.

It was, in a way, a "rebirth" of the Sorento brand. A few years ago, the 3.5-liter V6 gasoline variant of the Korean SUV was made available in the Philippine market. Sensing that a more fuel-conscious market would respond better to a more fuel-thrifty SUV, CAC decided to bring in the 2.5-liter diesel variant this year. With the advent of the CRDi technology, Kia was able to deliver not just a fuel-miser of an SUV, but also a more responsive diesel engine.

And so CEO Mabilog waited for us in Manila with a broad smile. It wasn't just his birthday that was making him happy, it was how his SUV was making us pleasantly surprised in every turn.

So, in the true spirit of a Korean telenovela, this article will not end this week. Wait for the exciting climax of the Sorento story in this section next week

Next week: From TV to SUV, the Koreans have made a rousing comeback

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THE BAJAJ CT100 is designed for enhanced fuel efficiency.

Kawasaki to market fuel-efficient bike

By Charles E. Buban

WITH GASOLINE PRICES SOARING AND car drivers cringing at the cost of a tank of gas, motorcycle riders are smiling under their helmets considering that their machines get gas mileage numbers most car drivers can only dream about.

"With the price of unleaded gasoline averaging P33.83 per liter, there's one more reason for people to consider riding motorcycles for transport," says Kawasaki Motor Philippines Corp. (KMPC) GM for sales and marketing Rodel Pablo.

KMPC recently launched the Bajaj CT100, a 100-cc, four-stroke, single overhead cam model designed for enhanced fuel efficiency.

Conscious

"Motorcycle riders are normally conscious about the fuel they spend, so news about a new model that is much more fuel efficient will certainly excite them," notes Pablo.

The CT 100 is another product out of the technical partnership Kawasaki Heavy Industries of Japan and Bajaj Auto of India entered into in 1986.

"The CT100 was first introduced in India in April 2004, selling a million units including the 41,000 units exported. The sales volume certainly attests to the model's success," reports Pablo.

Excellent

According to its Indian manufacturer, the motorbike offers an excellent mileage of 100 km per liter, thanks to its digital twin map capacitive discharge ignition (and a throttle responsive ignition control system or Tricks) that helps ensure optimum delivery of fuel economy.

"The Tricks work hand in hand with the DTM-CDI to produce dependable power—6.03 kW at 7,500 rpm and maximum torque of 8.05 Nm at 5,500 rpm—without sacrificing fuel economy," adds Pablo.

September 7, 2025

MY DRIFT

Andre Palma

THE END IS NEAR. IN A NEWS conference earlier today, a spokesperson for the World Petroleum Monopoly finally confirmed speculation that the days of the fossil fuel are now officially numbered. Citing increasing pressure on the world's strategic oil reserves by the immense popularity of the ultra-luxury 36-liter, V48-engined Hummer H22 (five liters to a kilometer consumption), the experts claim that the finite amount of petroleum left on the earth would last only for the next decade or so. The human race really had this sort of thing coming. We should have taken the hint when the barrel price of oil surreally overtook the price of gold—per bar.

It is this rising cost of running gas-guzzling engines that prompted the historic Manila Agreement of 2010, where the world's major vehicle manufacturers and the Philippine government agreed, in principle, to special "developing nation" discounts for commercial and public utility vehicles powered by either hydrogen or electricity. After seeing the benefits of alternative fuel, it was hoped that the SUV-fixated Philippine private sector would follow suit.

Landmark declaration

With hundred-year tax exemptions offered by President Manny Pacquiao, the deal was finally inked with the inclusion of long-term leases for prime industrial lots in the Boracay free port zone. This landmark declaration against continuing dependence on dangerously scarce petroleum stocks, served as the blueprint for similar deals worldwide and sparked the cause of "liberation economics" that has since swept much of the Third World.

On a lighter note, 2025's most popular vehicle on Philippine roads is the Tata-Norkis "Bullilit," a two-seat, adaptive engine, hot hatch. A joint venture of Indian automobile powerhouse Tata and the innovative Norkis group, the Bullilit boasts a "multifuel" engine with the ability to run on hydrogen, compost gas or *lambanog* (a local clear spirit distilled from coconuts).

Available with a range topping 40Kw engine, the 400-kilogram, lahar ceramic and aramid fiber uni-body accelerates to 100 kph in 9.5 seconds; excellent performance for a non-petroleum-powered car, but far short of the Japanese inline four- and six-cylinder "muscle cars" that were common during the turn of the millennium.

Heart of tri-fuel engine

The heart of the tri-fuel engine is the car's groundbreaking computer box or ECU, a bespoke unit that identifies the fuel being used and radically adjusts the engine's timing and compression ratio automatically. A joint venture of engine management specialist Motec and Philippine-based wiring harness maker Yazaki-Torres, these ECU's blend the best of foreign technology and local manufacturing practices.

Styled like a cartoon teardrop, the Pinninfarina-designed Bullilit runs on 12-inch coco-composite wheels and comes in colors like "Barako Batangas" (deep translucent brown) and "Baguio Strawberry" (red with green highlights). Owners even joke that the "Davao Durian" color (putrid cream), drives better than it looks.

People's car

Though the current world petroleum situation is grim, the emergence of a locally grown Filipino people's car is a bright, quad-xenon powered headlamp aimed straight at the future.

The finite nature of fossil fuel is the main reason petroleum products are now a luxury item only for the very rich and those obsessed with "vintage" automobiles. Though renewable fuels are slowly making inroads in the world automobile market, much of the world still recognizes the gasoline-electric hybrid as the standard engine configuration.

As long as there is dependence on oil, this system will prove to be more costly over time—as our fossil fuels run out. Though fuel rationing is a thing of the distant past, it is just as inevitable as the odd actor or boxer becoming President of the Philippines.

Key to popularity

Though the dream of a Filipino car has finally been met; it would be folly not to realize the immense effort that went into its design and production. The key to the model's popularity has been in providing the Filipino motorist with the razor's edge of technology. With a vehicle that is fundamentally sound and manufactured with the unique Philippine market in context, commercial success is a possibility.

It is important to state that none of this could have been executed without the massive transfers of technology from the more developed nations. Costs can be further reduced by incorporating more indigenous Philippine materials or locally manufactured systems.

The future, ladies and gentlemen, is always in doubt and is open to speculation, but we cannot deny that our past is a good indicator of things that will eventually come to pass. Thinking about the next 20 years may look like a nightmare for those of us who love cars, but at least it gives us the opportunity to assess our reality, perchance to dream. Petroleum is finite, but Filipino ingenuity is not.

The 'focused' onslaught of the 'Blue Oval'

From page B2-1

around pylons at speeds of at least 50 kph. At the straightaways, drivers gunned the gas pedals up to 130 kph into the turns.

Both Focus test cars demonstrated precise steering responses—highlighted by smooth and progressive feedback during cornering.

'Bonus' opportunity

This writer even had the "bonus" opportunity to take the 1.8-liter sedan back to the training site and see for herself how easy or difficult it would be to park the Focus in tight spots. Her verdict: the maneuvers were done effortlessly as she could even steer with one hand and a smile. It was later found out that the Focus' electrohydraulic power-assisted steering reduced steering resistance at low speeds.

The Focus transmission range is quite varied. There's a 4-speed sequential sports shift for the A/T and a five-speed M/T for the 1.6, 1.8 and 2-liter Duratec gasoline engines. It also has a 6-speed transmission—the first Ford manufactured 6-speed for M/Ts that is mated to the 2-liter Duratorq TDCi diesel in other markets. At the moment, Ford Philippines offers the 1.8 four-speed sequential sports shift A/T.

Its new front pillar shape is more deeply raked; its structure is optimized for more visibility. The bonnet rises sharply, accentuated by a purposeful "power bulge." The car carries the Ford family radiator grille. Also noticeable are the prominent shoulder and bold wheel arches.

Unconventional touches include a hood that can be popped open with a key. A distinct feature for the Asia-Pacific and Africa models is the rear light cluster with the look like that of a precious stone. There's also the signature uptick at the rear edge of the window graphic. The luggage area is a spacious 526 liters.

The temperature and the fuel gauges are highly visible, but we also noticed (or almost overlooked because of its size) the gear indicator, which is now too small and positioned horizontally below all the other gauges. Looking at the gear indicator would take a little getting used to.

THE 4-DOOR has the executive look with sporty nature; the 5-door has a distinctive rear spoiler—giving it a sporty touch.

Don't ban motor sport

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WITH OIL PRICES ESCALATING every week, the Department of Energy is preparing an Executive Order for fuel conservation and a total ban on motor sport is reportedly being considered in the EO. The DoE has asked Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), the country's national auto club, to comment on the draft EO.

Why the AAP? Because AAP is the only Philippine affiliate of the Federacion Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), the governing body of motor sport worldwide including Formula One, the World Rally Championships and Le Mans. As such, AAP is authorized by the FIA to officiate at all motor sport events in the Philippines and to issue competition licenses to race drivers aside from organizing permits. No other organization in the country has a history of involvement in Philippine motor sport like AAP, which celebrates its 75th anniversary next year.

Oil crunch

In fact, two of AAP's directors, president Gus Lagman and motor sport committee chair Mandy Eduque, were car rally champions in their younger days. Lagman and Eduque remember the oil crunch during the 1970s when fuel was rationed and the use of gasoline was banned in auto rally events, which was the only form of motor sport in those days.

Since they could not use gasoline for rallying, they used alternative fuels like alcogas. So instead of banning motor sport altogether, Lagman suggests, use it as a testing ground for today's biofuels such as ethanol.

"We'd like motor sport to lead the way in finding out which alternative fuels work best," Eduque adds. "Then we can inform motorists what to do—how to reset or modify the engine so they can use the biofuel safely. In this way, motor sport would be performing a public service aside from contributing to energy conservation."

More events

Of course, the situation today is different from the 1970s when the only motor sport event taking place was the rally. Now, Eduque says, there are more events—karting, rallycross, slalom, drag racing, Asian Formula 3, the national touring car championship, 4x4 off-roading—and a whole industry has grown around them, generating employment and income for crews, mechanics and suppliers. The Batangas Racing Circuit and Subic employ a lot of people and competitors themselves employ mechanics.

"The Philippines is gaining prominence in international motor sport, especially in Formula 3 and karting in the Asian region," Eduque observes. He expressed concern that while competitions are now run in a legalized, supervised fashion, illegal racing may result if the government bans racing totally.

Magnet

Lagman also points out that races at BRC and Subic serve as a magnet to attract foreign tourists and motor sport fans to visit the Philippines. He noted that investing in motor sport as a tourist attraction pays off. "Look at Malaysia," he said. "Prime Minister Mahathir spent millions of dollars to build the Sepang race track for Formula One. Every year now, tens of thousands of people go to Malaysia to watch the F1 race at Sepang and hundreds of millions of people all over the world who follow F1 events on TV see and hear about Malaysia."

Above all, both men emphasize that the amount of fuel consumed in motor sport events is just a tiny fraction of the total amount used nationwide. "When a car is racing, it actually consumes less fuel per kilometer than a car in daily stop-and-go traffic," Eduque says. To prove this point, AAP plans to compute the amount of fuel used in a weekend of racing and compare it to the total amount consumed in the country on any given weekend.

Other sports

Eduque contends that basketball uses up more energy than motor sport, what with all the lights on the basketball court, the air conditioning of the entire stadium, the electric power used for television and radio coverage and the fuel that the teams and fans consume to reach the game's venue. Even badminton, with its courts' bright lights and the fuel used by players to go to the courts, uses more energy, he claims.

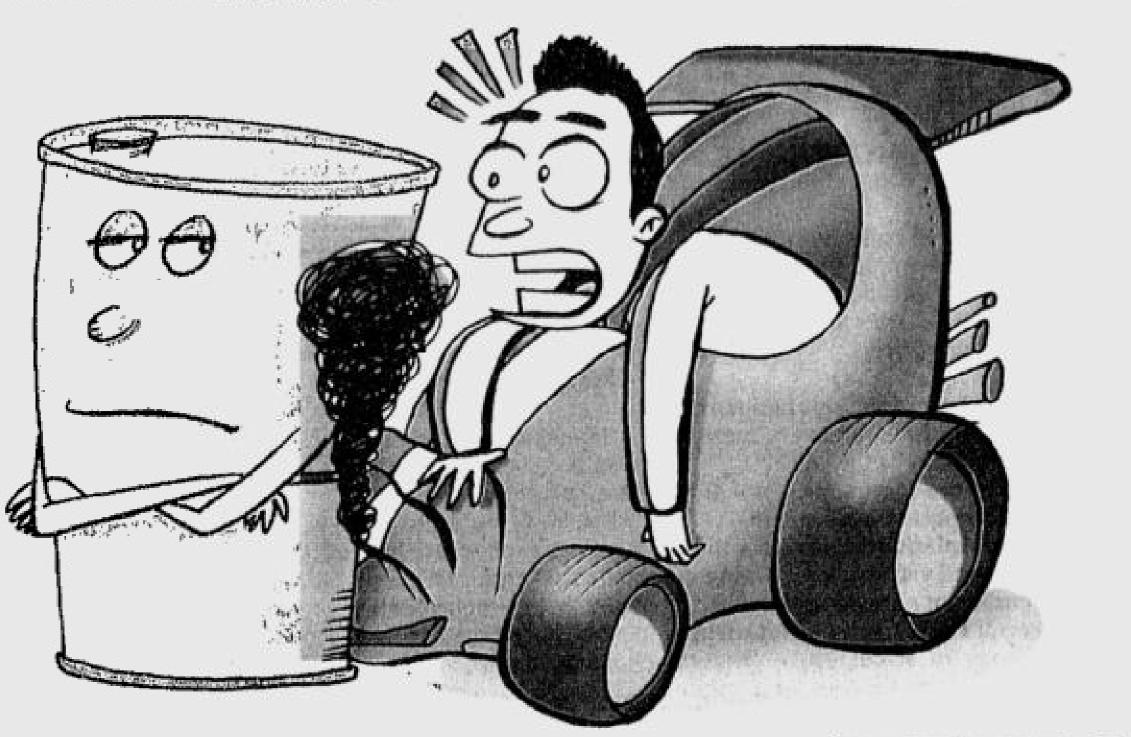
"We're all in this energy crisis together as Filipinos," Eduque concluded. "We want to do our share to conserve energy. But let's be fair. If we are to be penalized for using fuel, they should look at the other sports. Every sport consumes fuel. Unfortunately, motor sport is the most visible. Regulating the use of fuel or requiring the use of alternative fuel in motor sport is better than a total ban."

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Having a smoking section in a restaurant is like having a peeing section in a swimming pool.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

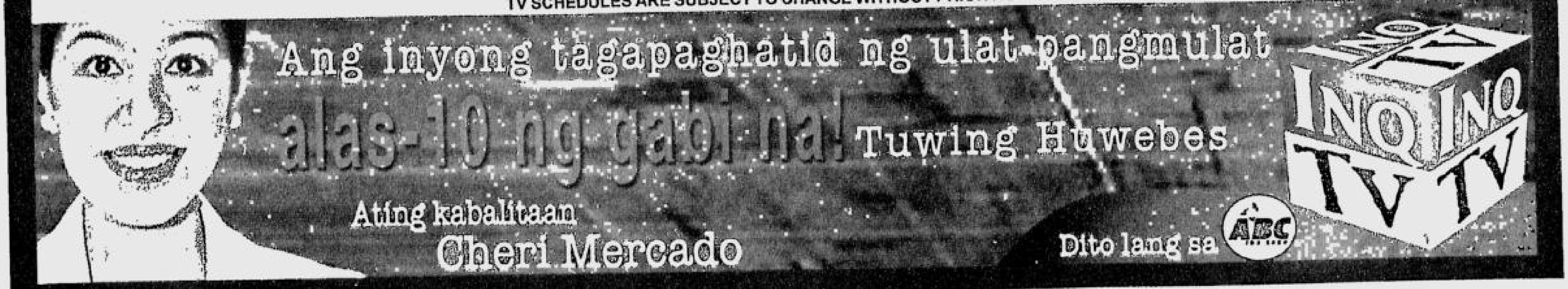
Wednesday, September 7, 2005

WOW mali ng MaLi! ABC Sabado 9pm Ang mahiwagang Bowl featuring "Ang Alamat ng Bakla"

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talk Ko 'To		Linya		Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Best Of PBA				Sentro	Brunei Cup					Big News	Dokyu		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep up the Good Work w/ Joey Lina		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		MTV		The Life And Hopes Of Jaime Cardinal Sin		Navy Medicine At War	BYK 101	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Breaking Barriers	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Shepherds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C.S.I. (8:15PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	One Bad Trip	Ultrasound	MTV Pop Inc		Newlyweds	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Diyos		Motor Making The Video	MTV Lokal Brownbeat	Dismissed	Boiling Points	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN			Major League Baseball						Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	2005 WPBA Midwest Classic East Peoria		Major League Baseball				
Sports Plus											Tour De France								
Cinemax	Frankenstein Must Be Destroyed				Free Willy 3 The Rescue			Wyatt Earp						The Parole Officer			Death Becomes Her		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Agency II		Clipping Adam			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	So Little Time	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		Science Frontiers		The Future Is Wild		Extreme Machines		Deep Impact		Hour China		Wild Tech		Anatomical Travelogues		Hour Asia	
National Geographic		Showcase Asia		Going To More Extremes		Sea Hunters		Dogs With Jobs	Toyota World Of Wildlife	Wow!		About Asia		Megacities Week		Showcase Asia		Going To Extremes: The Silk Route	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	Toonami: Beyblade V Force Marathon			Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents						All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	Will Work For Stars		Style Star	Life & Style		Clean House		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill		Rockstar		J.A.G		Friends	One Tree Hill
AXN				Worst Case Scenario		Ripley's Believe It or Not		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Amazing Race V		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		Chasers			Fugitive's Run			Family Sins			Dumb And Dumberer: When Harry Met Lloyd			The Core		Sex And The City 78: Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little (11:15PM)	Sex And The City 79: Lights, Camera, Relationship!		
Star Movies				American Born Confused Desi (ABCD)				Fizzy Bizness			Widow On The Hill			Avatar			Spartan (10:45PM)		
Cinema One		Broken Marriage				Ngayong Nandito Ka				Cara Y Cruz			Persona	Tag-araw, Tag-ulan (9:15 PM)				Ms. Kristina Moran	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factor C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor-Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation Deep Prayer	The Virtues: Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
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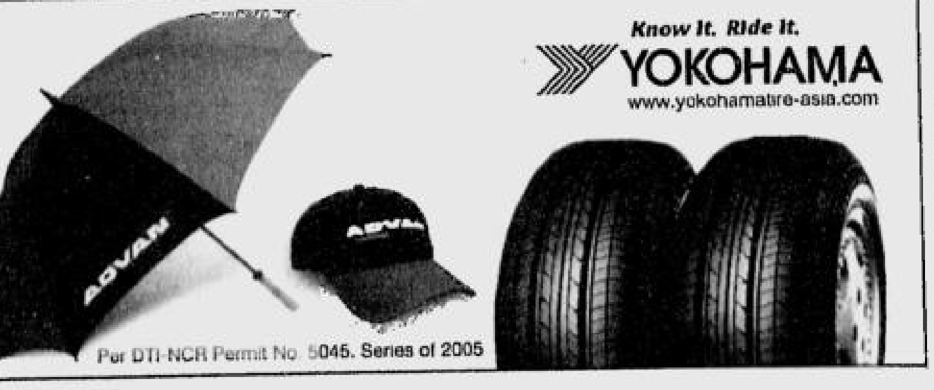
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5045, Series of 2005

Violations all over; Toyota No. 1 again

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

EVERYWHERE IN METRO MANILA, WE see traffic signs being violated in wild abandon.

No loading and unloading anytime.

No stopping anytime.

Loading and unloading zone only.

Mostly, the violators are usually jeepney, bus and cab drivers.

* * *

You know why violations happen every minute of the hour, every hour of the day, every day of the week?

Well, because some cops, if not MMDA traffic enforcers, allow them.

They see violations right under their very noses and yet, they do nothing to stop them, if not punish the culprits.

You and I know the reason: Corruption. *Kotong* in street lingo. Drivers hand out money to cops and other traffic enforcers every day as a condition to violate the law.

In short, traffic signs are built chiefly for the purpose of mulcting and not protecting the safety of pedestrians and motorists alike.

What a life!

* * *

If it happens in the streets, it also happens in government offices. Corruption here, corruption there.

If you ask me, bottom line is, the ultimate violators of the law are the cops, the MMDA traffic enforcers and, yes, the government employees (top officials included) who receive grease money and "commissions" to facilitate a transaction.

Likewise, givers of grease money are themselves equally guilty.

What a life!

Listen to this: Since New Orleans, the storm-devastated city of Louisiana, USA, needs volunteers for relief operations, 80 million Filipinos have applied.

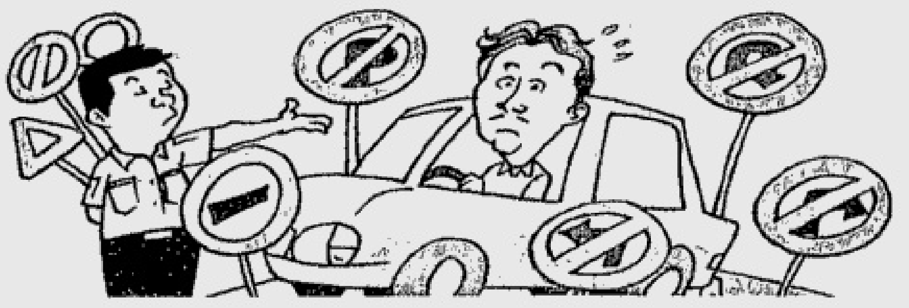
You think that's a joke?

* * *

As I keep saying here, late is never late. Thus, congratulations to Toyota for increasing its first-half of the year sales in commercial vehicles by 32 percent.

According to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi), the chief monitor of vehicle movements in the country, Toyota's CVs sold 9,294 units at the halfway mark of the year with its year-to-date (YTD) share of 30.9 percent. In June alone, it sold 2,017 units for an almost 34 percent market share. Campi also said Toyota dominated anew the market with sales of 16,803 units for a 35.3 percent market share.

The Hilux recorded a 205 percent increase compared to the same period last year. This was attributed to the introduction of the new Hilux late in 2004. Thus far, Hilux has registered 1,115 units in YTD sales, dominating the pickup category with a 32 percent market share.



The Innova has likewise surpassed the performance of its predecessor, the Revo, selling 5,890 units for the first half of 2005. The Fortuner itself has sold 537 since it rolled off from the assembly plants in May.

Oh, yes, the Fortuner. It has made a pair of buyers still oozing with joy to this day—Grappa's owner Bert Bravo and Chicken House founder Joe Cajili. Joe himself takes pride in being the first to own a Fortuner in Bacolod City.

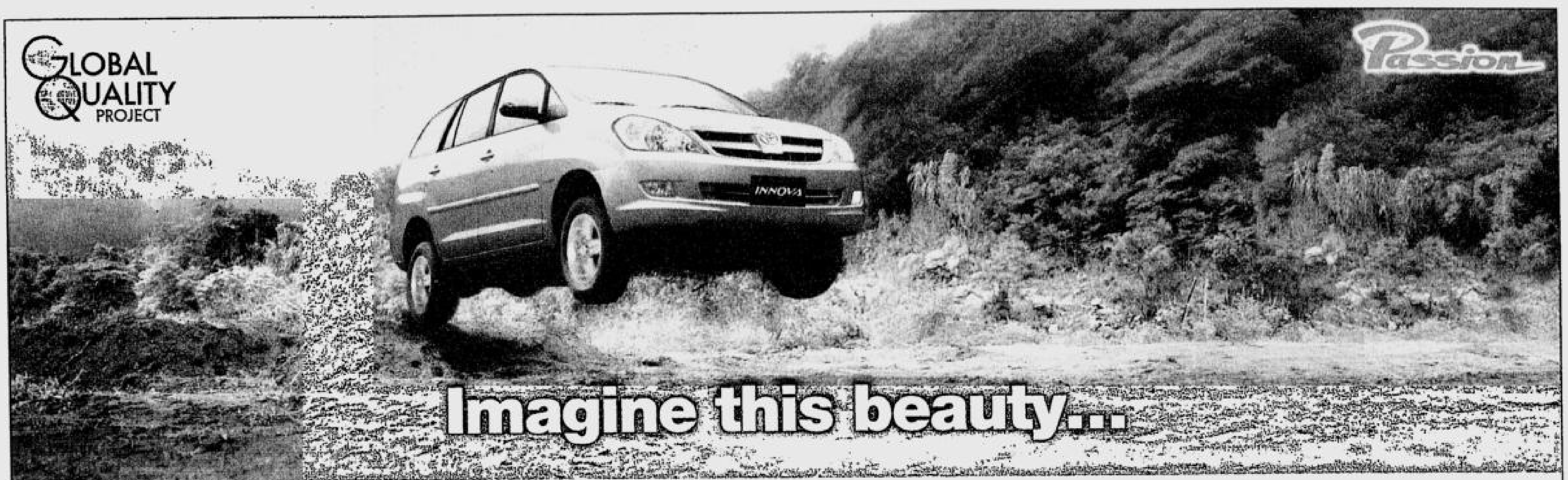
The combined sales of Toyota's IMVs to include the Innova, Hilux and Fortuner has reached 7,542 units, 25 percent of the 30,107 reported total sales in the CV market.

Well, what can I say?

I raise a glass anew to Tabata-san, Alfred Ty, Apin Pantaleon, Danny Isla, Ariel de Jesus, Raymond Rodriguez and Elijah Sue Marcial, among others, for Toyota's virtually unchallenged leadership in the motoring industry.

* * *

QUOTE ME: I don't get it. Why do we have two speed limits at NLE: 100 and 80 kph? In fact, making it 120 kph would be most ideal.



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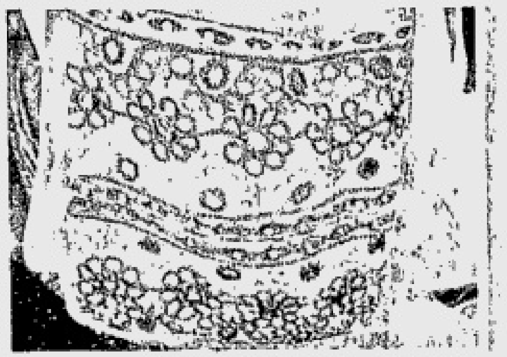
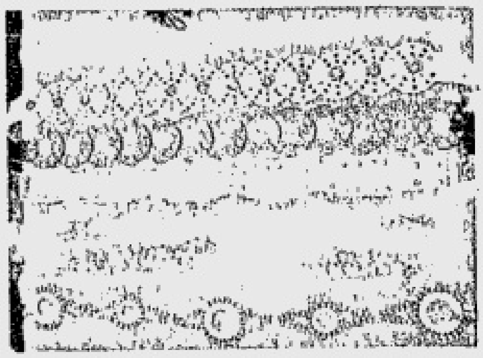
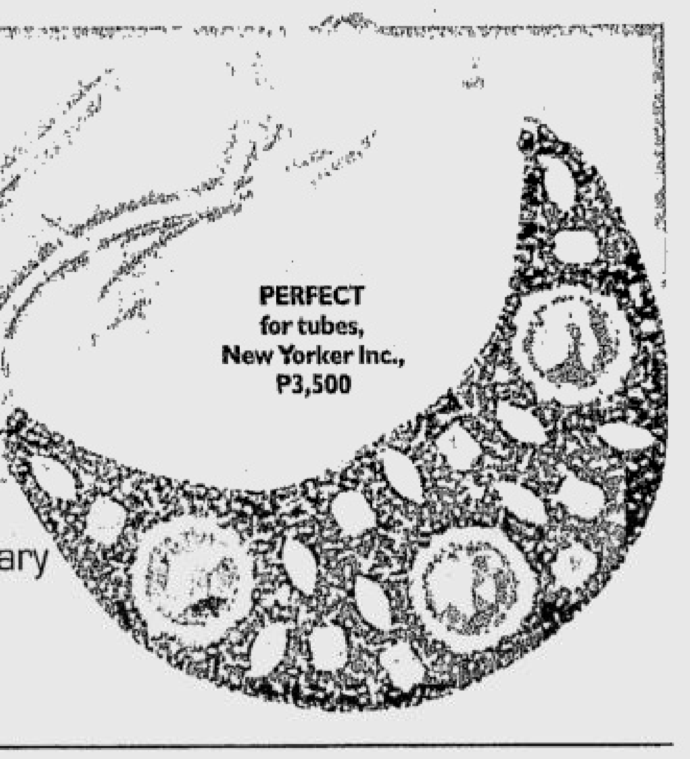

MESSENGER bag, Shirin for Khazana, P250


BELTS from Limited, P250-450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New Yorker Inc.,
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Pinoy Bohemia

FASHION FREAKS

Sport out-of-the-ordinary fashion and rise above the crowd

Text and photos
by Ruth L. Navarra

TO BE bohemian is to disregard conventions. It's a state of mind and a way of life.

In the recent Bohemian/Moroccan Bazaar in Rockwell Tent, it became obvious that it's passé to be plain and cool to be colorful.

Gone are the days when finding an affordable flamboyant skirt is limited to patiently going through rows and rows of monstrosities in Baguio's *ukay-ukay.* The challenge now is looking for something that will stand out in a street full of women in body-hugging peasant blouses and swishing, shimmering skirts.

Cheap accessories in Quiapo and Divisoria have made dangling chandelier earrings, multi-strand bracelets and necklaces available to anyone who has the interest to adapt to the boho chic craze. Sooner or later, you will realize that everybody else is wearing the same thing—which defeats the purpose of the "bohemian" concept.

PINOY/C2

Belo
Thermage

There are so many words worth saying about beauty. For me, beauty is something that begins with serenity of mind. It is seen on a face without worries and lines.
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Belo is a beauty haven for looking good and feeling good.

Mons Romulo Tantoco
Mons Romulo Tantoco
Lifestyle Writer

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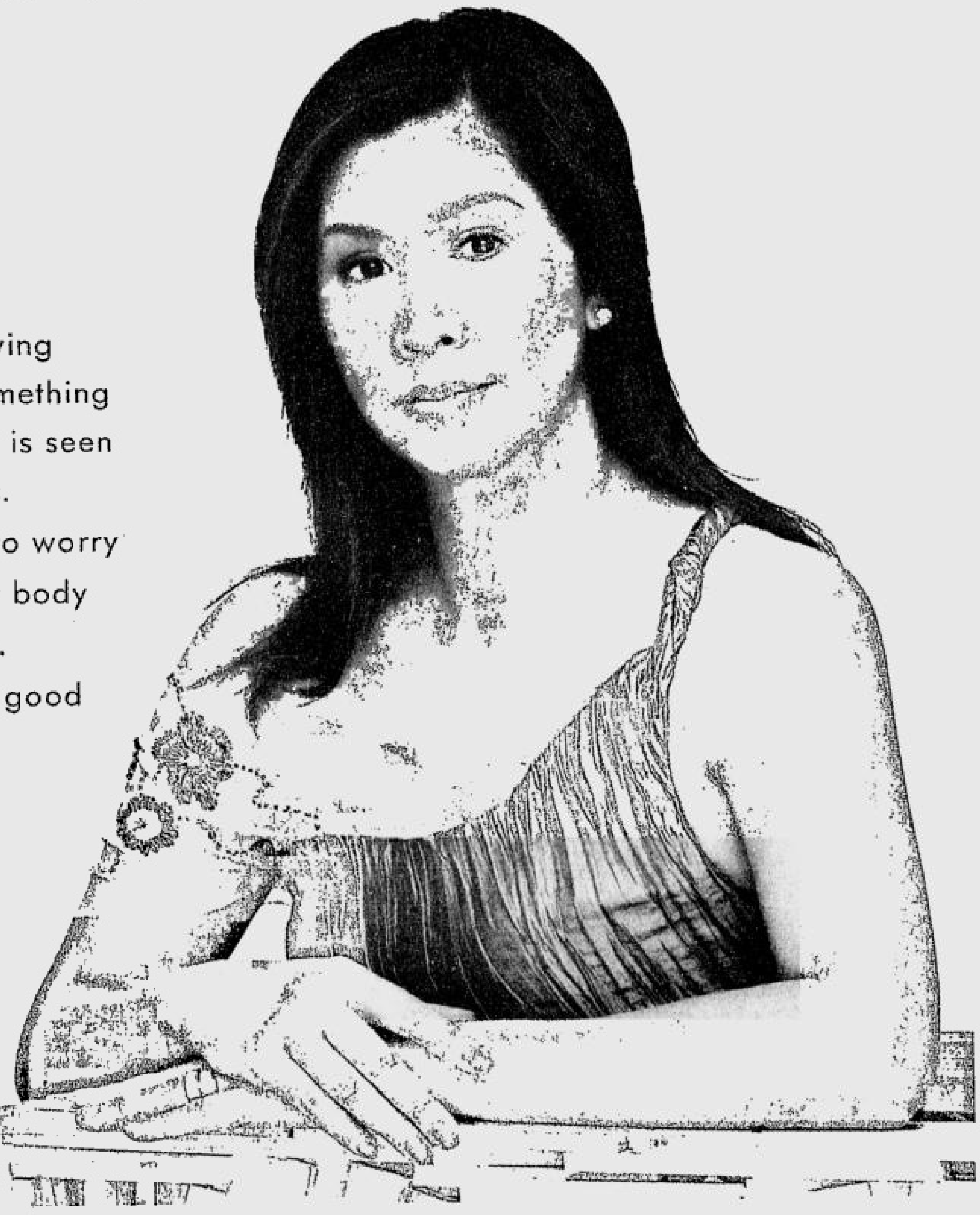

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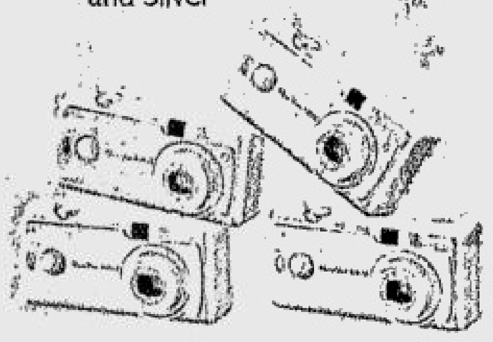

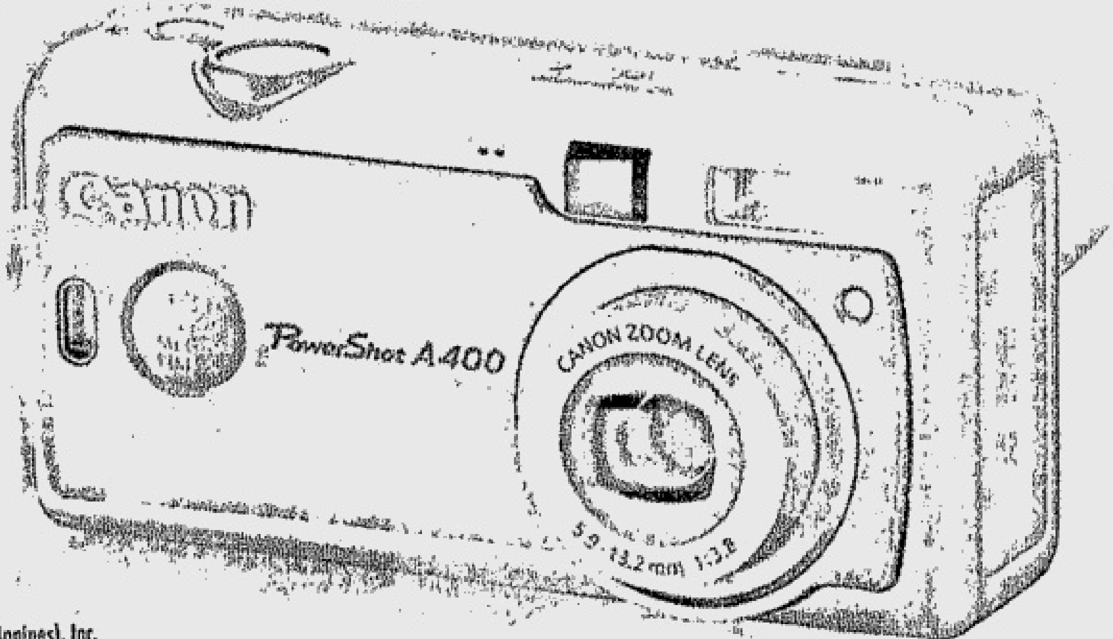

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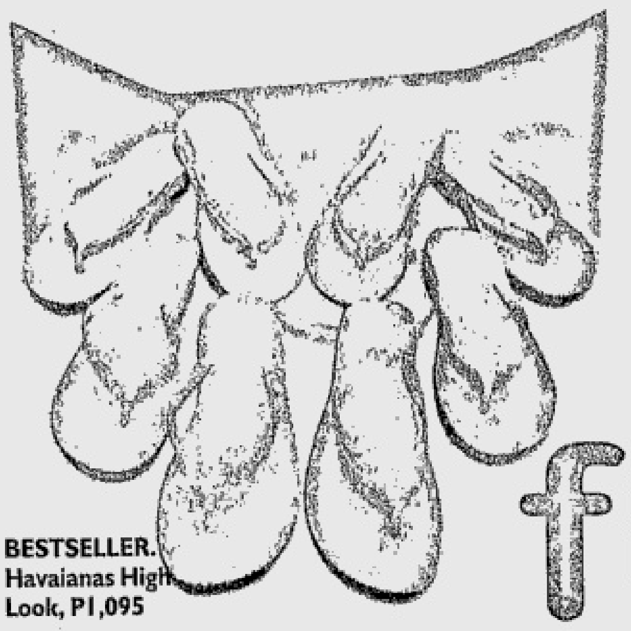
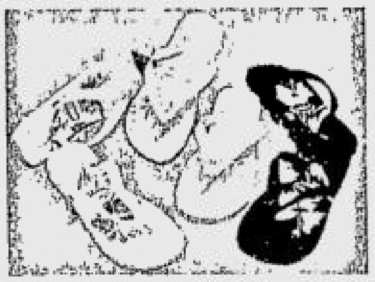


BESTSELLER. Havaianas High Look, P1,095

GET FRUITY. Havaianas Fruit, P835

FLORAL FUN. Havaianas Flowers, P835

HAVAIANAS Tropical, P835



HAVAIANAS Aquarela, P835

Get your own flip-flop fix

The one-stop shop for your favorite slippers is now open

Text by Pam Pastor
Photos by Ryan Lim

HEADS UP, HAVAIANAS ADDICT!

Your flip-flop prayers have been answered. All Flip Flops, the only retail outlet in the world with 100 percent Havaianas merchandise, is finally open.

Although no promotions were done to officially announce the store opening last Aug. 22, Havaianas fans from all over Luzon have trekked to the store for a visit and have left with shopping bags dangling from their arms.

Isabel Berenguer-Asuncion is the store's architect while Paolo Lim worked on the style of the shopping bags and the graphic designs used inside the store.

Supported by Terry S.A., the only official Havaianas distributor in the Philippines, the store promises to be a venue that will showcase all kinds of Havaianas products. Right now, aside from the wide variety of flip flops they offer, they're also selling Havaianas socks and keychains. And apart from your regular Havaianas staples, they also have designs that are not available in other stores.

Havaianas, our favorite flip flops from Brazil, hit the Philippine shores in November of 2003. Since then, over 80,000 pairs have been sold locally, creating a solid following for the South American brand.

No wonder, things at All Flip Flops have been crazy even if the shop has only been open for a couple of weeks. Countless Havaianas fanatics keep returning to the store to buy more pairs. Men are getting into the act, too, asking for bigger sizes for more designs. In fact, things have gotten so crazy that All Flip Flops has had to cordon off the store and limit the number of people inside. They've also become the first shop to hire a bouncer. "Flip Flop Security," his shirt reads.

While a lot of people willingly fall in line and patiently wait for their turn to shop, others become irritable and rude.

Fall in line

"We really apologize and explain to them that they have to fall in line because we won't be able to give all of them good service if they're all inside the store. Most of them understand," Abba Napa, one of the partners, said. And their phone has been ringing off the hook.

"We really want to go beyond the craziness, to make Havaianas part of everyday Filipino life," Abba said.

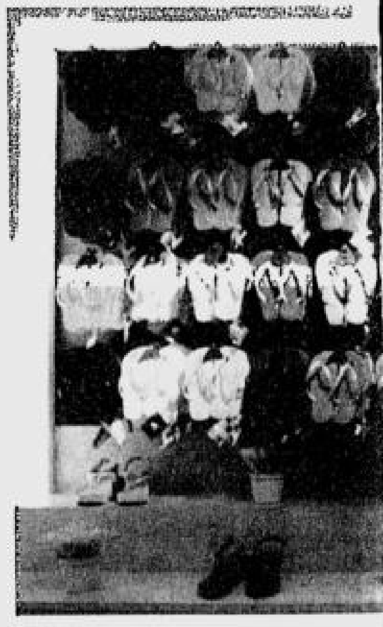
And it's already happening. One afternoon spent at the store is enough to tell you that.

A couple walked into the store and the guy spoke, "*Ano'ng* slippers *ninyo ang puwede sa akin, 'yung pang* after-basketball?"

Then a group of schoolgirls walked in and tried on different pairs before buying. "*Uy ha, sa* birthday *ko* Havaianas *din,*" one of them said to her friends.

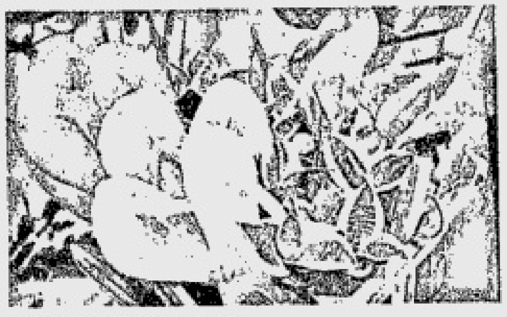
Then a woman scanned the display while talking loudly on her phone. "*Wala na nga nung* brown *eh. Kung gusto niya 'yun na lang* copper, *may parang* copper *dito…*"

Abba said, "We want people to see that it's not just for the beach. In fact, we've been saying that

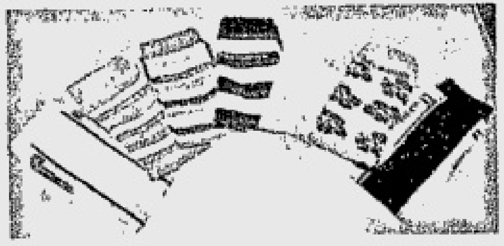


FLIP out.

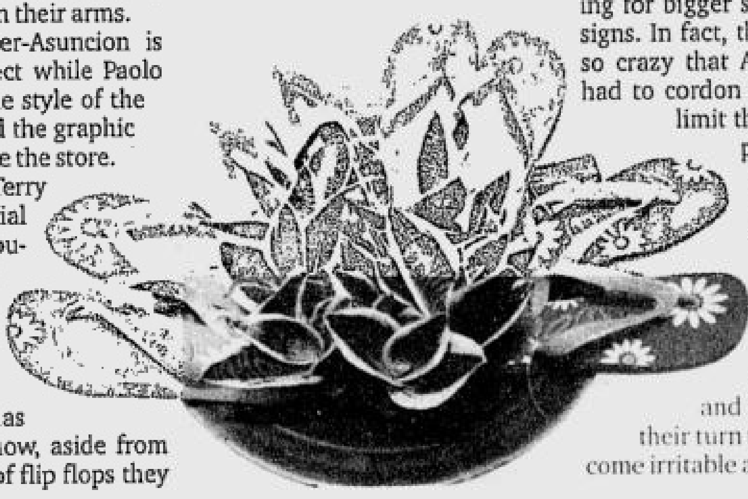
METAL MIX. Havaianas Metallic, P695

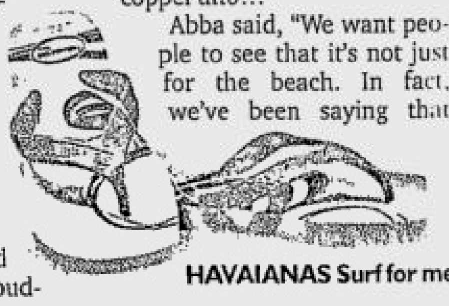


FLIP-FLOP overload

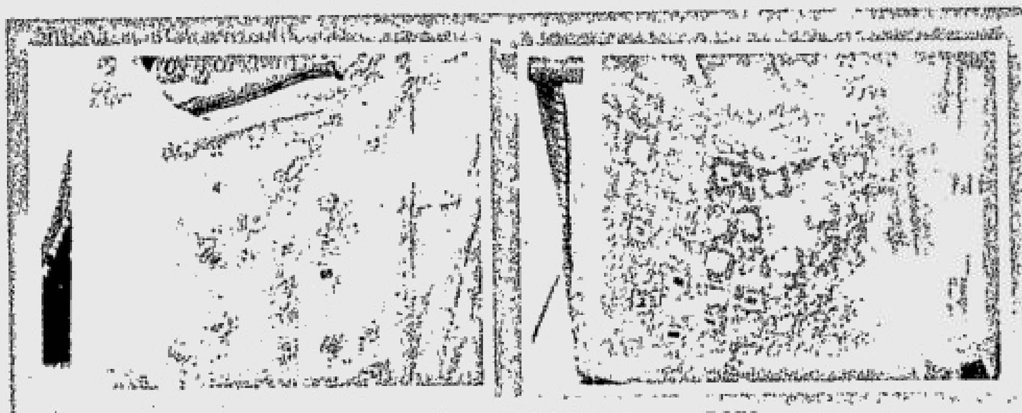


SLIP them on. Havaianas socks

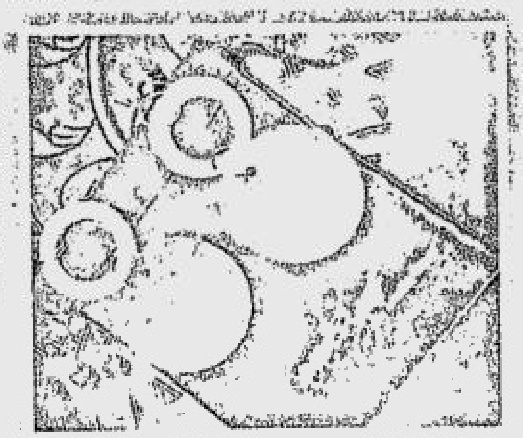




HAVAIANAS Surf for men

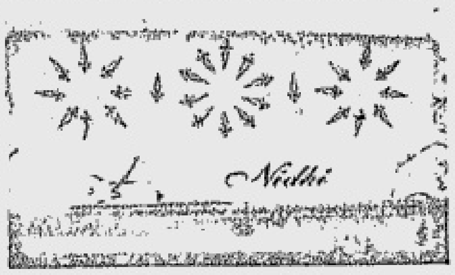


COMPLETE the look with these two bags, Shirin for Khazana, P250



MOTHER-OF-PEARL earring, Cole Vintage, P250

VELVET belly dancer scarves, Tangerine, P1,500



BINDHI, Shirin for Khazana, P50

Pinoy Bohemia

From page C1

This is where Pinoy creativity comes to the rescue. Any gypsy would be proud about what our young entrepreneurs/artists have come up with so that the legacy of individuality goes on.

Mariel Quimson of Adira makes use of multi-colored crystals to create design patterns for blouses and shoes. She said each piece from her is "handmade and unique."

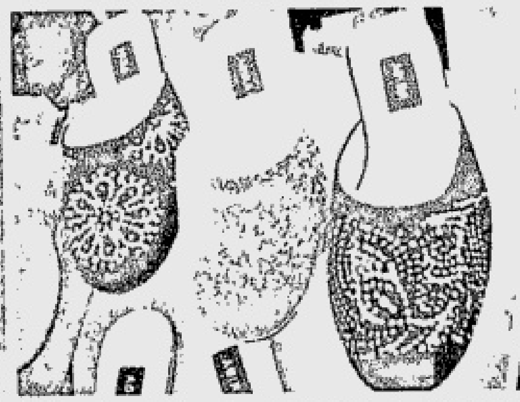
Timtam Mendoza of Splurge in Style hand-paints bags, sandals and flip flops. "We tested our products ourselves. We assure our buyers that the paint won't come off with water."

Eve Monroy of Accesoria de Casa makes use of unconventional but ingenious raw materials—water buffalo (our local carabao) horns, bones and even hooves. No, she's not behind any mammal mass killing. She gets her materials from slaughterhouses.

"You'd be surprised at the number of people who are fooled into thinking that the meat they're buying is beef when it's not…" says Monroy.

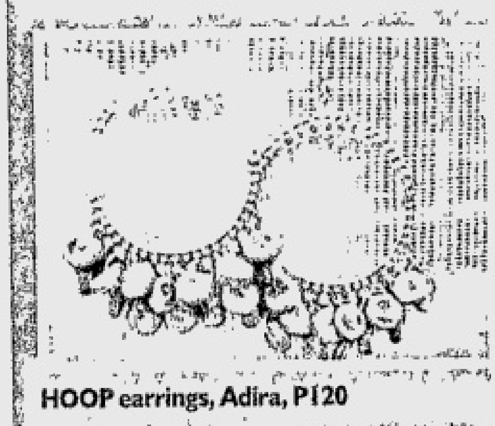
Okaaaay, but that's another story.

E-mail the author at rnavarra@inquirer.com.ph

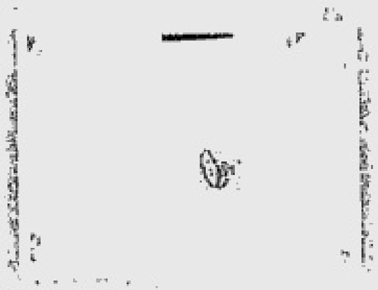


NO TWO of them are the same. Adira, P1,400 each

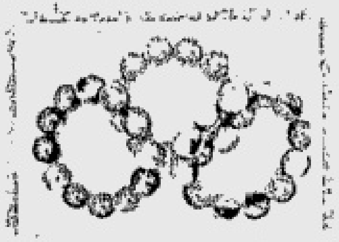
POUCH bag, Shirin for Khazana, P150 each



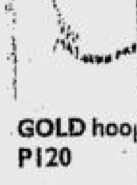
HOOP earrings, Adira, P120



SLEEVELESS shirts from Adira range from P650 up.



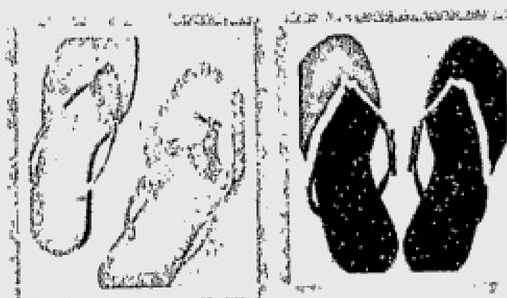
BEADS of these bracelets are of rare horns from "albino" carabaos, P250



GOLD hoo
P120

STERLING
UPAA, P4,

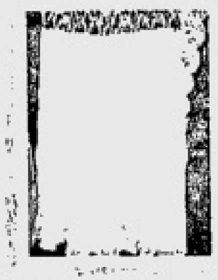
HAND-PAINTED slippers, P750, and sandals P550; Splurge in Style



SLIPPERS with accents of carabao horn and bone, Accessoria, P280

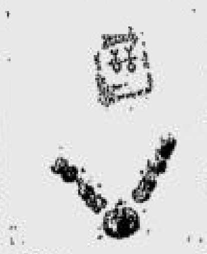
GREAT conversation piece, Monk slippers, Shirin for Khazana, P350

SKIRTS from Splurge in Stlye, P750-850



WHITE skirt, Tangerine, P600

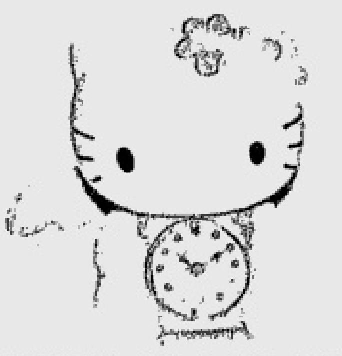
HAND-PAINTED bag, Splurge in Style, P1,500



GREEN Necklace from Adira, P320

MON, Col

It's a Kitty, Kitty Christmas



HELLO Kitty fairy bedside clock with movable wings

CHRISTMAS IS HERE EARLY NOW that Gift Gate and Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) have teamed up with big rewards for loyal BPI credit card holders.

From Sept. 7-24, shop for your favorite Sanrio goodies, Swatch watches, Lego and Russ toys, even Segue and United Colors of Benetton bags and luggage using your BPI Credit Card Frequent User Privileges points.

"Through the years Gift Gate has been a really strong partner of the Ayala group of companies. Gift Gate is a very natural partner especially for BPI credit card because it's a shop that many people go to. I very distinctly recall that I used to frequent Gift Gate myself when I was young," says Ginbee Go, vice president of BPI credit card division and a Hello Kitty aficionado. And now with the BPI-Gift Gate promo, she plans to keep coming back to Gift Gate for her Christmas shopping.

Gift Gate has partnered with BPI credit card for their first ever "In-store Redemption" program. According to Go, "We always continuously innovate our rewards program. This year, we're innovating it again by allowing in-store redemptions and this is the first time we're doing this with Gift Gate. Now our cardholders could just go to the store, choose the item they want to redeem, and use their BPI rewards points to pay for that item."

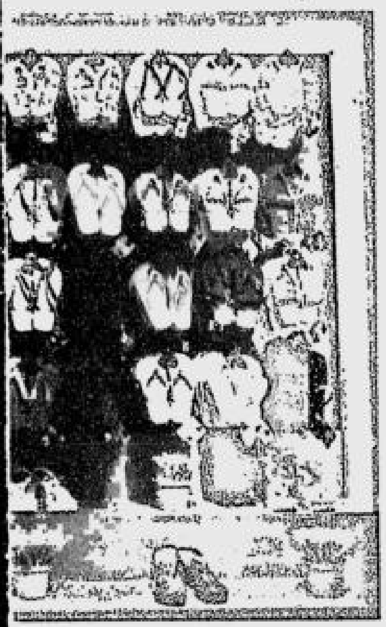
But what if you don't have enough points to get what you want? Simply add cash and it's yours!

Or you can take advantage of BPI's Special Installment Plan with zero percent interest at Gift Gate. Any item in the store worth P3,000 or more is eligible for the plan

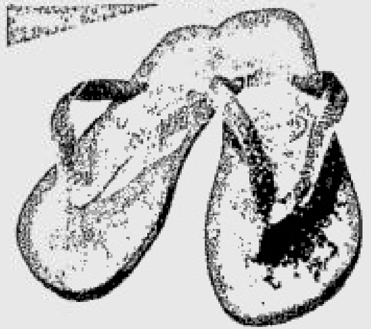
BPI's Real Zero Percent Christm Wishlist Installment Madness ru from Sept. 7-24 at Gift Gate Glorie ta 2, Ayala Center Makati only

2bU
young • to be you • to be you • To be you!

WELCOME to Havaianas heaven.



HAVAIANAS Slick, P895



MOST coveted pair, Havaianas Top in Brown

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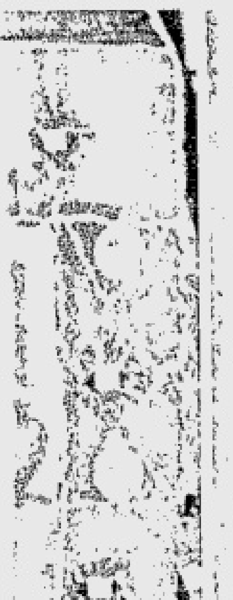

earrings, Adira,

silver with corrals,
00

Vintage, P840

Bazaar directory

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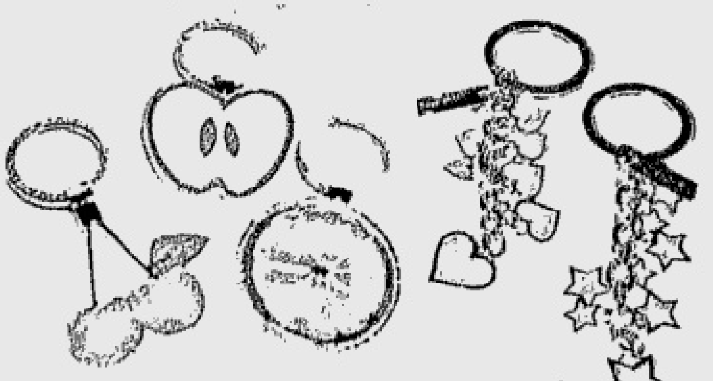
Adira—Mariel Quimson, call 9261910
Ava Designs—Loraine Gotao, 0917-7906527; visit avadesigns.blogspot.com or e-mail avadesigns@hotmail.com
Cole Vintage—Eileen Co, 7214896, 0917-5284087, 0922-4138585; Stall 88 Annapolis Carpark Arcade, Greenhills, San Juan; visit www.colevintage.com or e-mail chico@colevintage.com
Ilaya—3622706, 0920-9241808, 0918-9073695; 11-D Metorwalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Jane del Rosario—0918-9363031
Limited—9269385-86, fax 9268243, 0918-9425306; visit Room 204, Cabrera Bldg., 64 Timog Ave. Q.C.
Mia Villanueva—8967723, 0917-5289016; visit 21Planet St. Bel-air, Makati City; e-mail mia_villanueva@hotmail.com
New Yorker, Inc.—8447753, fax 8447663; visit 1004 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
Rainstorm Trading—Carina Rabilas, 0915-6764336
Shirin for Khazana—9386720, 9362974, 9267340754 or e-mail khazana_ph@hotmail.com
Splurge in Style—Timtam Mendoza, 0917-5141898; Ai Lu, 0917-5266973; visit 25 Diamond Lane, 3/F, Shoppesville, Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan; 8 50th Ave., 3/F, East Wing, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas Center, QC; 244, 126 Fashion Market, 2/F Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio, Global City Taguig City; e-mail splurgeinstyle@yahoo.com
Tangerine—Cristina Rosales, 0917-8948770
Twinkle—Twinkle Feraren, 0917-8171590, 0920-2244283, 7256982, 7237550, fax 7256982, 8193708; e-mail turquoise_rocks@yahoo.com.uk, starfishie_wishie@ hotmail.com and twixie@gmail.com
Unang Panahon Arts and Antiques—6332327, 0919-5124029; 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall
Vintage Pop—Bong Salaveria, 0918-5003460; Shop 66, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC



UNITED Colors of Benetton handbag in blue suede (left) and fruity and dangling keychains (above)

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BAR and dining

GARDEN trellis

Café for all hours

By Christian B. Bautista
Photos by Karl Sumbeling

"IF YOUR IDEA IS GREAT, people will flock to you," says Jay M. Selan, the man behind the all-in-one hub called DigiCafé. Selan, a Singaporean who has been in the country for a decade, got the idea for the place from his original business-smart cards.

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Given its operating hours, a good chunk of DigiCafé's business comes from people who want a night atmosphere even during daytime. Selan says call center employees often frequent his establishment to recapture the nightlife they have lost due to their graveyard shifts.

His motive for putting up the place was simple, he says. "I needed a place to go where I could relax. Now, I can entertain my clients here. It's like a home. You get to ease the pressure here."

However, the biggest appeal of the place is definitely the cheap booze. Beer is sold at *sari-sari* store prices. For instance, San Mig Light goes for P20 pesos while the usual Pale Pilsen sells for P18, which is quite unusual for a place that looks as good as DigiCafé.

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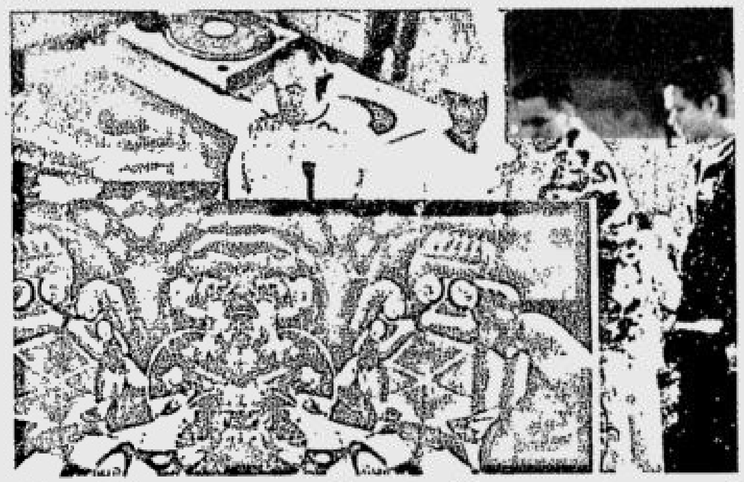

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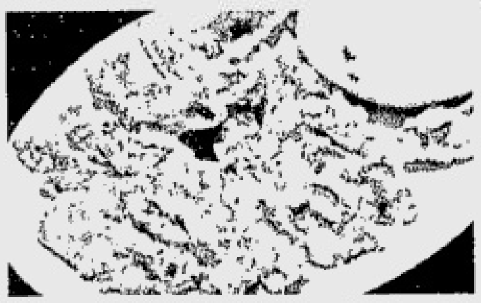
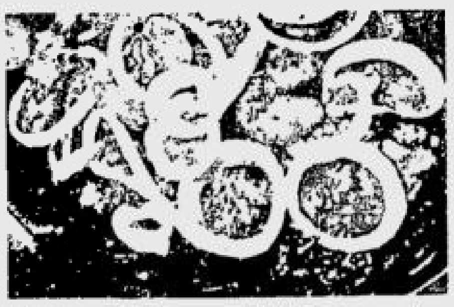
PORK Sisig



CHILI Okra



CHICKEN Liver Masala

CHIEF Chocolate Head

Sweet treats

From page C4

chocolate make you happy? If you've had great moments with the well-loved confection, then show it in a photo!

Express how Hershey's makes you happy in a photograph and submit your entry with your name, address, age, telephone number and gender at LBC and Digiprint drop boxes, or e-mail a soft copy at photocontest@hersheyshappiness.com.ph. You can also submit through MMS at Hershey's Submit at 2256, or visit the Hershey's Happiness Booths at various malls around the country.

Criteria for judging include emotional impact, creativity and overall composition. Bi-weekly winners can choose prizes from the following packages: P20,000 worth of goods from Fully Booked, Toby's, Abenson's, or your favorite fashion store; an indulgent chocolate buffet with your friends (as well as a large box of chocolate to take home), a donation to your favorite charity, cash, or a Cebu Pacific vacation package.

The photo that wins the People's Choice award based on text votes wins a Cebu Pacific Hong Kong Disneyland package. The grand prize winner takes home a P100,000 Hershey's Happiness package of his/her choice. Check out complete details at www.hersheyshappiness.com.ph, and send your entries as soon as possible—the grand prize could possibly be just a click away!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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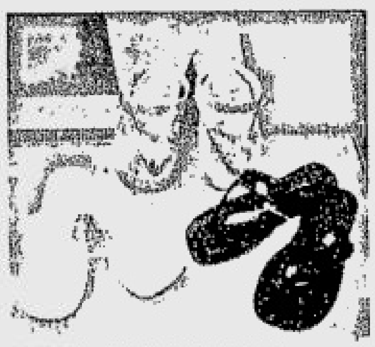

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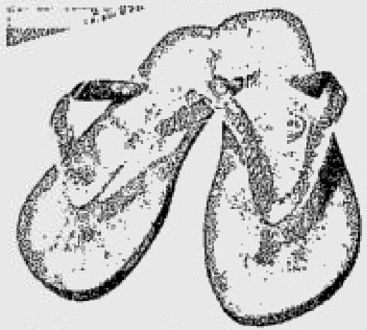

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Cole Vintage—Eileen Co, 7214896, 0917-5284087, 0922-4138585; Stall 88 Annapolis Carpark Arcade, Greenhills, San Juan; visit www.colevintage.com or e-mail chico@colevintage.com
Ilaya—3622706, 0920-9241808, 0918-9073695; 11-D Metorwalk Commercial Complex, Meralco Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Jane del Rosario—0918-9363031
Limited—9269385-86, fax 9268243, 0918-9425306; visit Room 204, Cabrera Bldg., 64 Timog Ave. Q.C.
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Unang Panahon Arts and Antiques—6332327, 0919-5124029; 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall
Vintage Pop—Bong Salaveria, 0918-5003460; Shop 66, Marikina Shoe Expo, Araneta Center, Cubao, QC

earrings, Adira,

silver with corrals,
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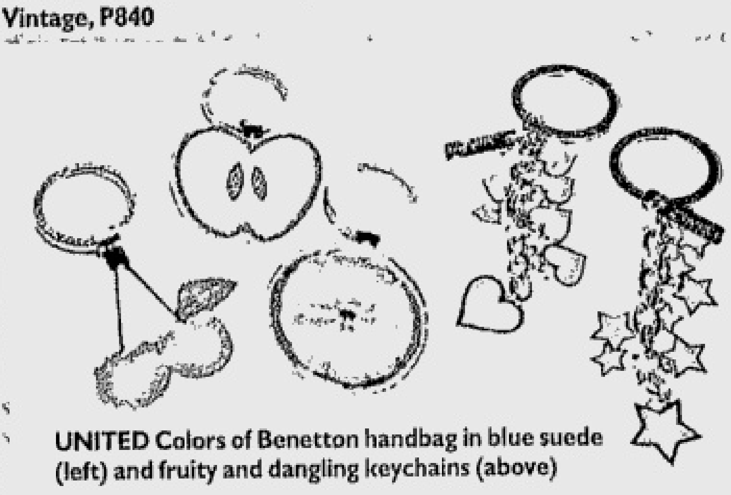
Vintage, P840



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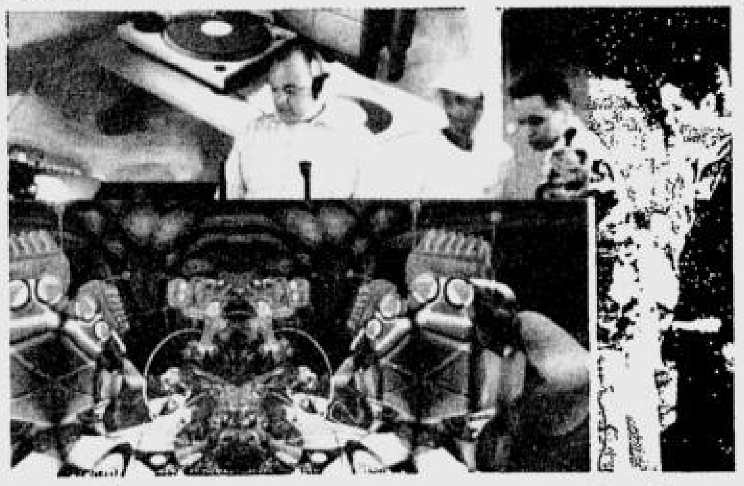

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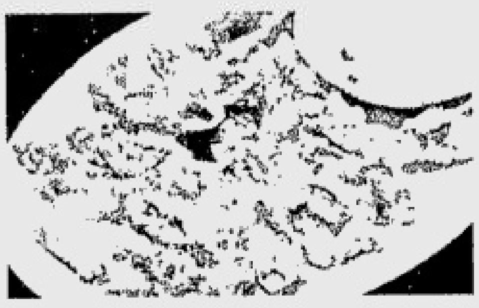

CHILI Okra

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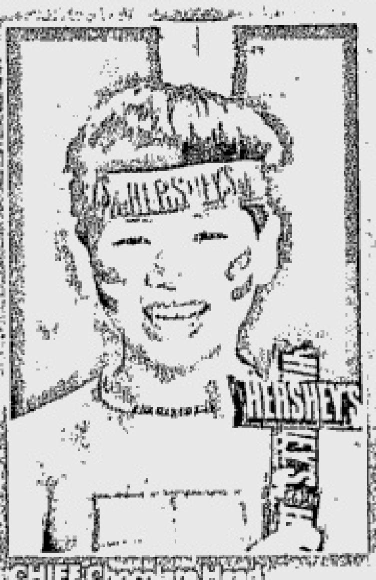
S'MORE

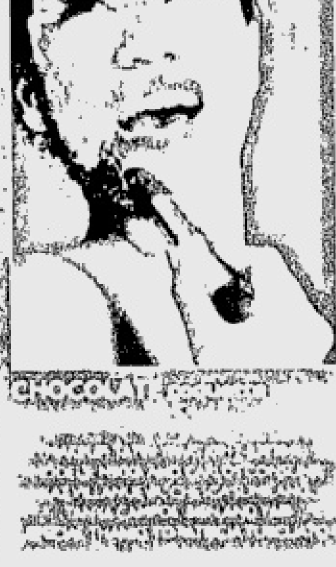


CHIEF Chocolate

KISS

CHOCOLATE

Sweet treats



CHOCOLATE

From page C4

chocolate make you happy? If you've had great moments with the well-loved confection, then show it in a photo!

Express how Hershey's makes you happy in a photograph and submit your entry with your name, address, age, telephone number and gender at LBC and Digiprint drop boxes, or e-mail a soft copy at photocontest@hersheyshappiness.com.ph. You can also submit through MMS at Hershey's Submit at 2256, or visit the Hershey's Happiness Booths at various malls around the country.

Criteria for judging include emotional impact, creativity and overall composition. Bi-weekly winners can choose prizes from the following packages: P20,000 worth of goods from Fully Booked, Toby's, Abenson's, or your favorite fashion store; an indulgent chocolate buffet with your friends (as well as a large box of chocolate to take home), a donation to your favorite charity, cash, or a Cebu Pacific vacation package.

The photo that wins the People's Choice award based on text votes wins a Cebu Pacific Hong Kong Disneyland package. The grand prize winner takes home a P100,000 Hershey's Happiness package of his/her choice. Check out complete details at www.hersheyshappiness.com.ph, and send your entries as soon as possible—the grand prize could possibly be just a click away!

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Sweet treats

How does Hershey's chocolate make you happy? Answer the question, and you just might win great prizes courtesy of the well-loved chocolate brand

BREAKFAST with Hershey's

CHOCOLATE saves the day

Text and styling by Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent
Photos by Ocs Alvarez

MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OF THE happiness-causing stimulants linked to chocolate. Some make you perkier, some decrease depression, and some even replicate the feeling of well-being released when you interact with a loved one.

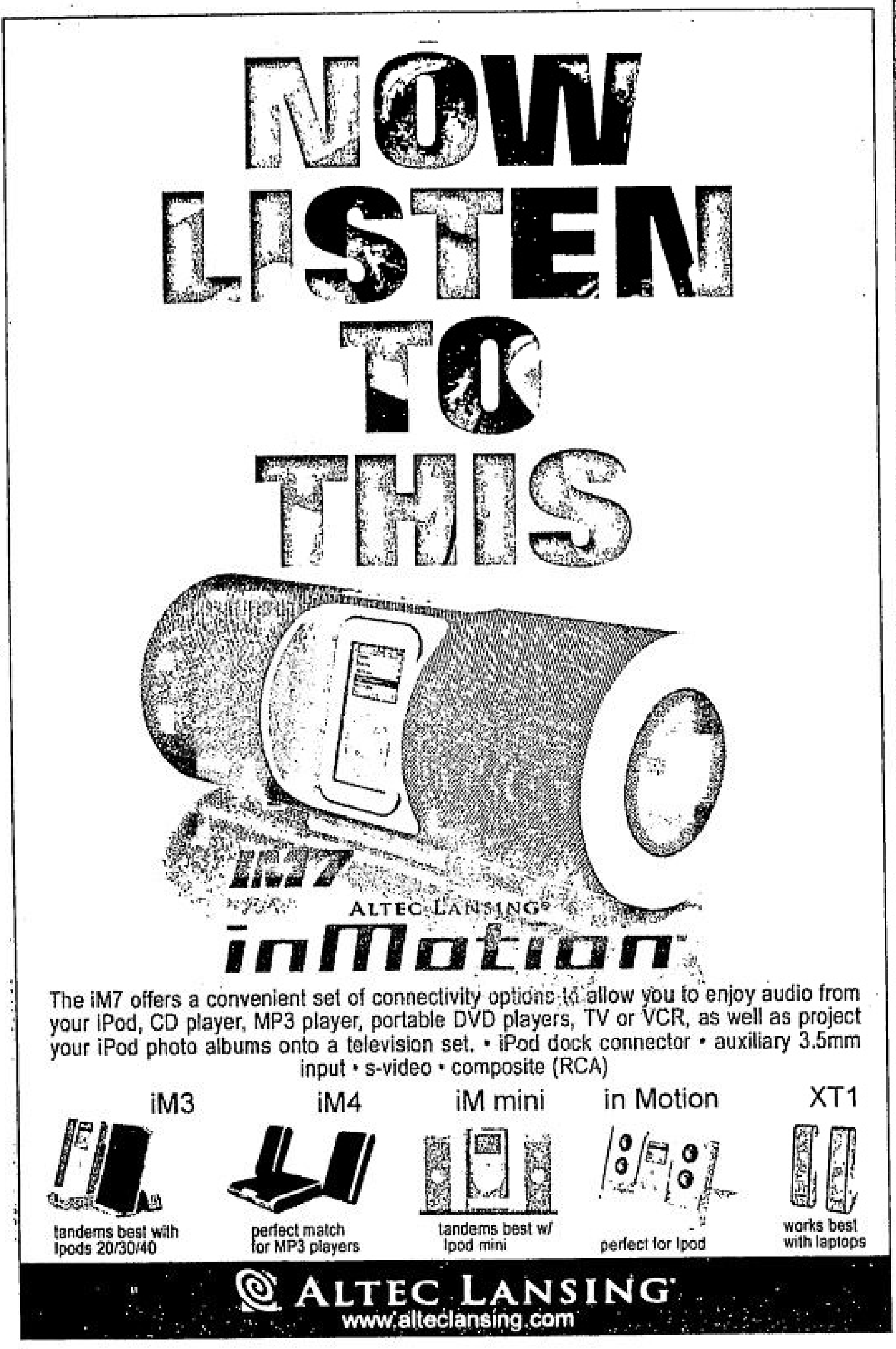
However, it doesn't take a scientist to tell us just how happy chocolate makes people. Many romances have bloomed from the box of chocolate given on that first date, and failed relationships are soothed with the healing mix of chocolate and sympathy (somehow, tea just doesn't seem to make the cut.)

Kids revel in the taste of sweet milk chocolate, while most adults prefer the full, bittersweet taste of dark chocolate.

Some people eat chocolate to remember good memories, while others eat to forget bad ones. Some eat their chocolate in blissful solitude, while others prefer to share it with good friends. Preferences vary in every age group and country, but one thing's for sure: chocolate is a healthy upper.

It is from this principle that the Hershey's Happiness Photo Contest has been launched. The Hershey's people want to know: How does Hershey's

SWEET/ C3



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*Free 3 months SOD feature to those who will subscribe until Oct. 24, 2005. **Free unlimited Wi-Fi access in over 180 hotspots nationwide for only P500 one time activation fee (Wi-Fi is free until July 24, 2006).
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4353, Series of 2005

2bU! To be you! to be you • to be young • to be young

LIFESTYLE

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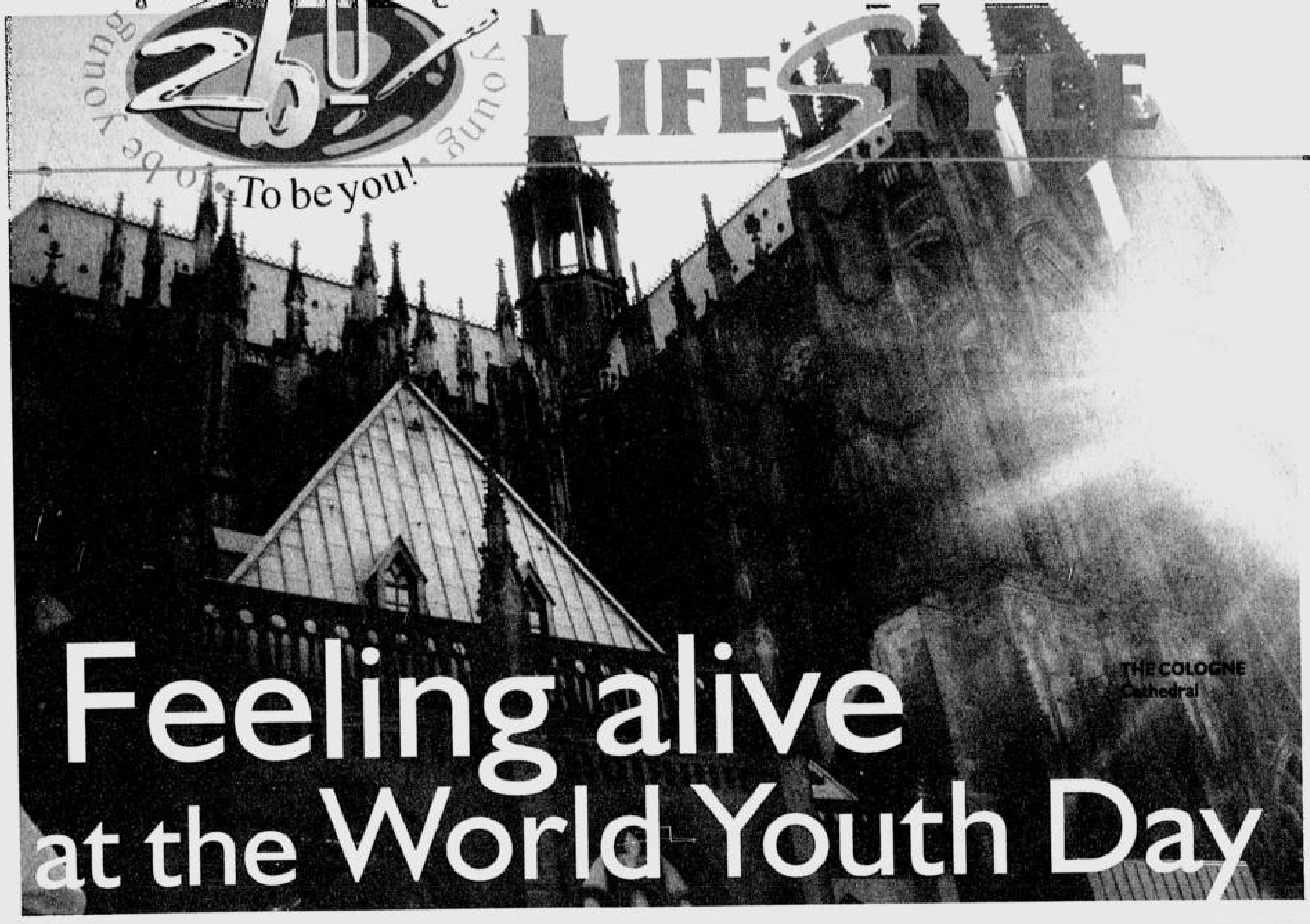
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

To see the new Pope, Benedict XVI, was a great come-on. To be blessed by him was a gift of grace



Feeling alive at the World Youth Day

THE COLOGNE Cathedral

DELEGATES IN Marienfeld

By Patricio C. Bejerano Jr.
2bU! Contributor

DRIVEN BY THE URGE to see the new Pope, Benedict XVI, and knowing that the Holy Father came from Germany, I tried to make it to the 20th World Youth Day in Cologne.

The amount needed to go to Germany was no joke, even for the airfare alone. I solicited the money from relatives, family friends and even politicians,

I only got one-fourth of the cost. Tough luck. I felt the clouds darken.

My parents had agreed to let me go as long as I could raise the money. But when I told them I was still short on my air fare, they relented and paid for the balance.

I wrote excuse letters to my professors since I would have to absent myself from class. One of them didn't accept the letter and said the reason was not valid. What could be more valid than seeing the Pope? Some professors could really be difficult. But I would not be stopped.

It was my first time to travel by plane. And an international flight at that. After the 16-hour trip from Manila, I felt the cold air as we got out of the airport.

We went to the house of a family friend. We were welcomed, fed and given some *baon* just in case we got hungry. It was a good thing there were Filipinos in Germany who made us feel welcome and comfortable in a foreign country. I guess we were just lucky.

We were then introduced to the foster families who would provide us a place to stay. We went to Stommeln, a town a few minutes away by land transport from Cologne.

Our foster home was a typical German family. We were given everything we needed during the entire trip and they even offered breakfast, even if we were supposed to take it someplace else.

There was a line-up of events. Everything seemed to be festive and alive. The smell of German bread was everywhere and almost everything that caught the eye was stunning.

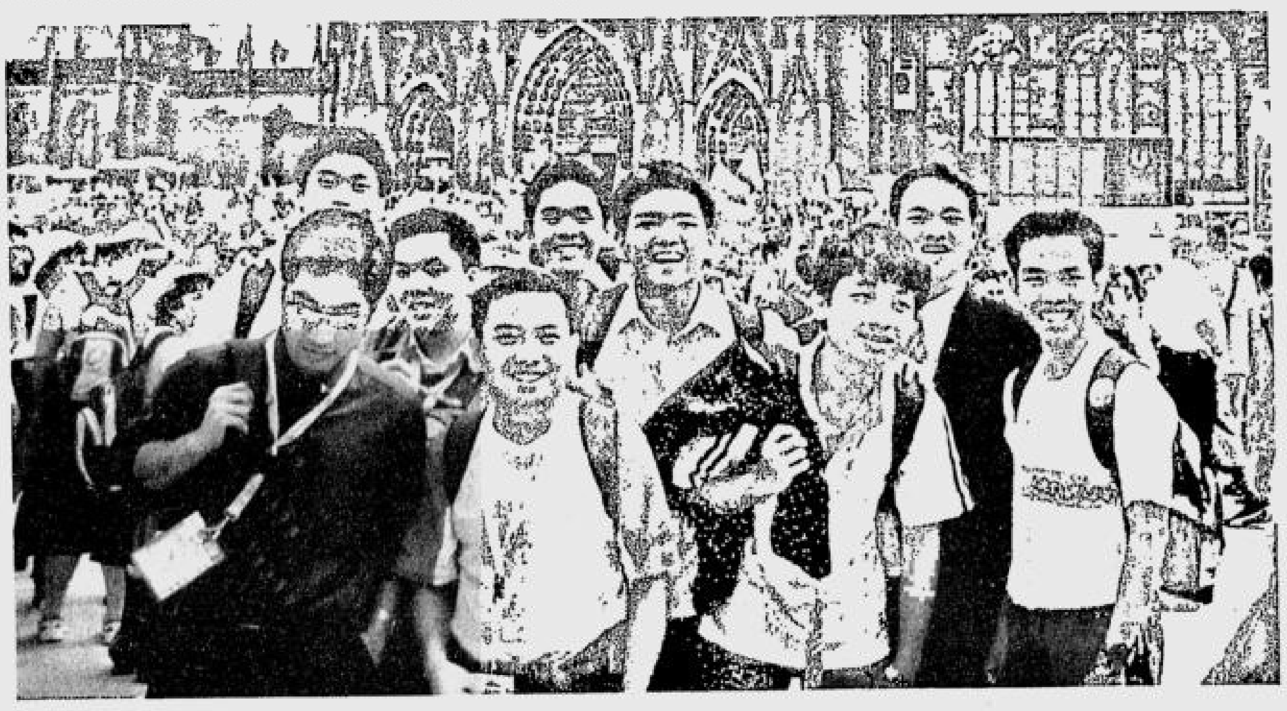
Surprises

It was a week full of surprises, of meeting people from different cultures. We attended big and small gatherings, went to museums, went on a pilgrimage from the Cologne Cathedral to several churches, and acquired a taste for German food.

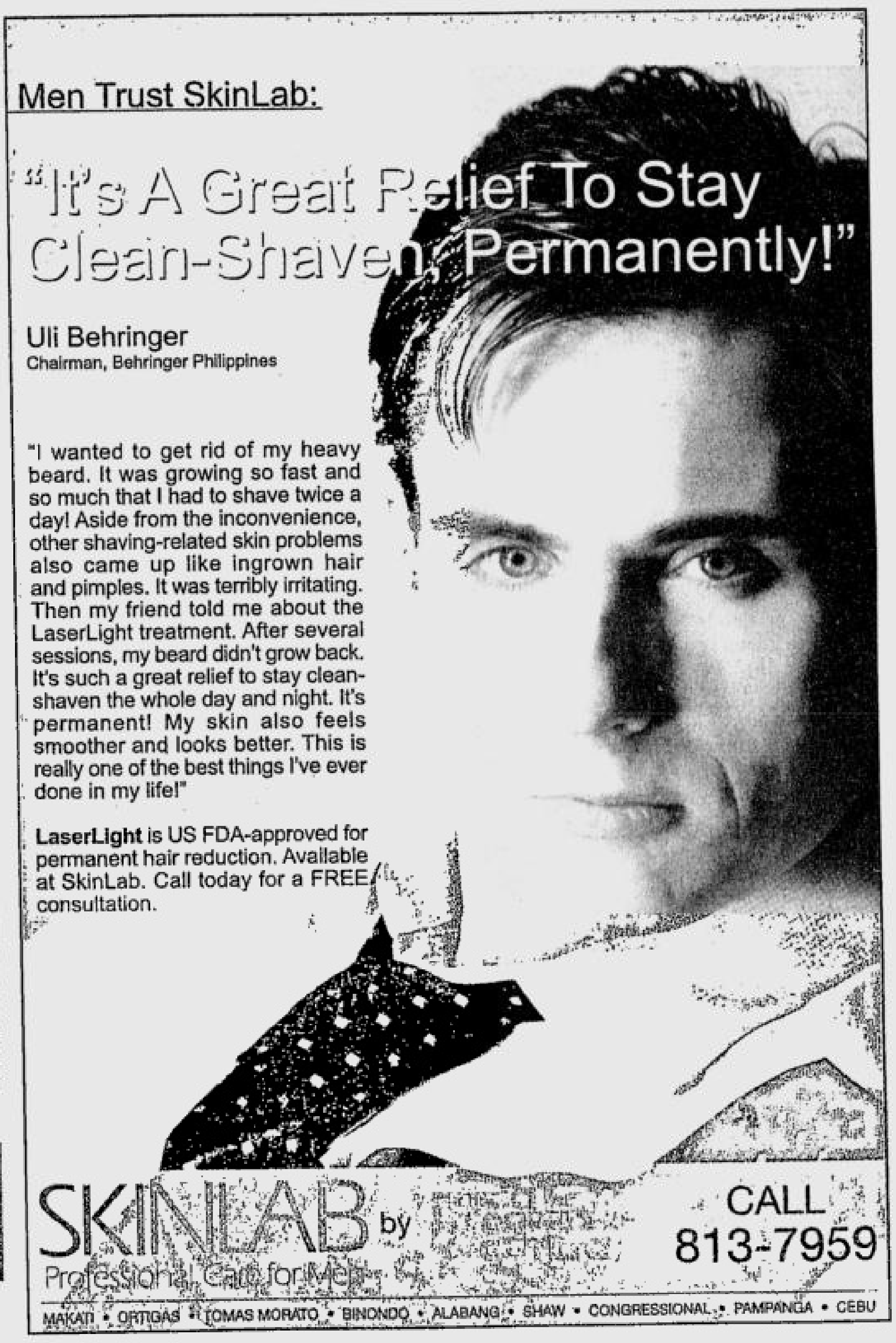
We were able to see the Holy Father while he gave his speech at least three times! It was really amazing! Hearing him was enough, but seeing him was too much. I realized how lucky I was every time he gave his blessings.

Then the main event came. It was in Marienfeld, a vast field where the main celebration and the closing Mass were held. We walked for about

FEELING/ D3



WORLD Youth Day delegates at the Cathedral



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Uli Behringer
Chairman, Behringer Philippines

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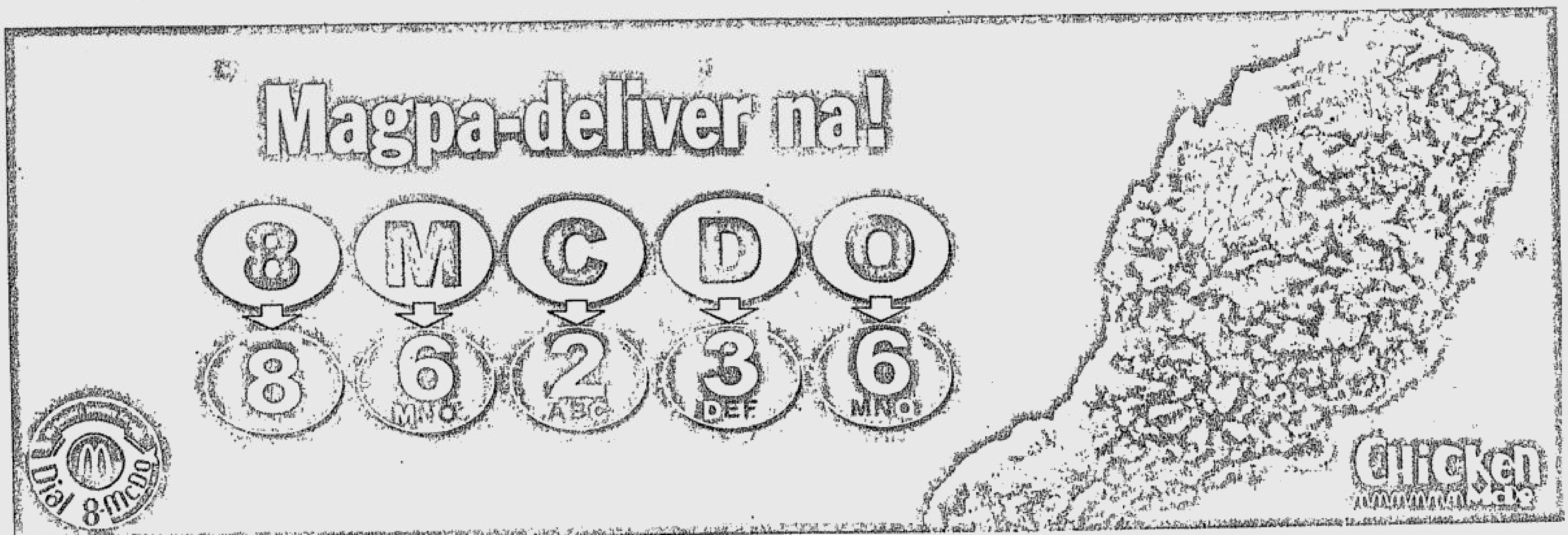

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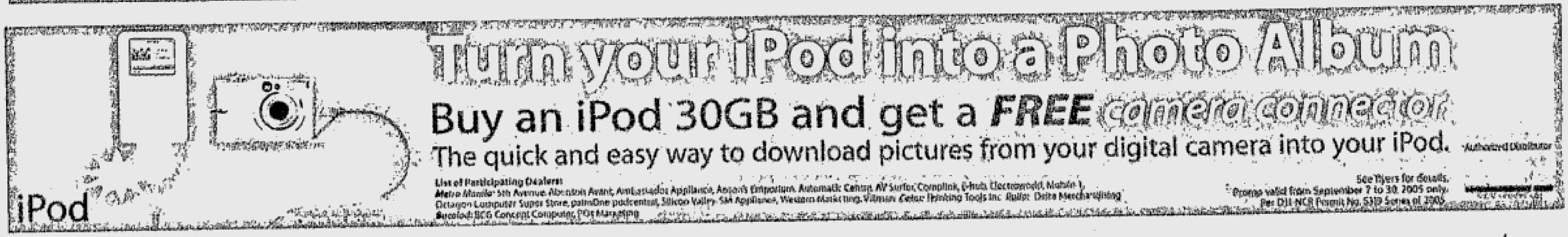
Dial 8-mcdo



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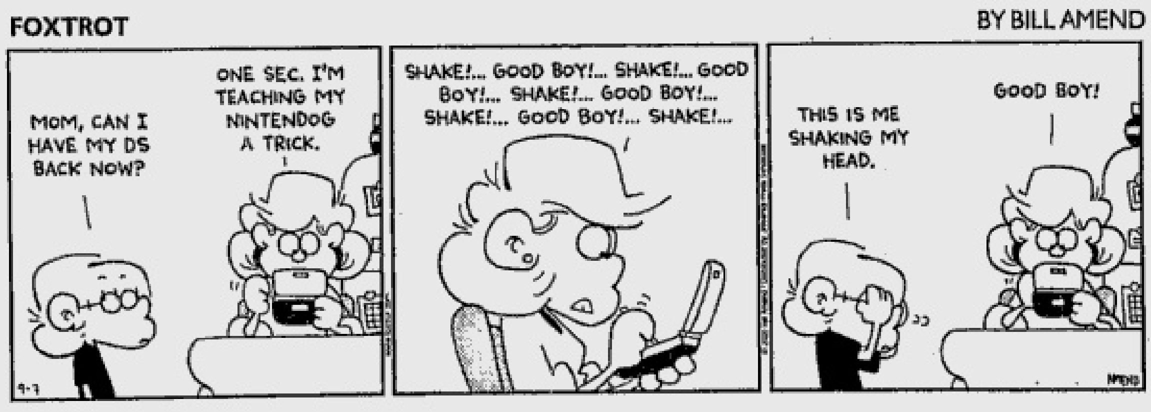
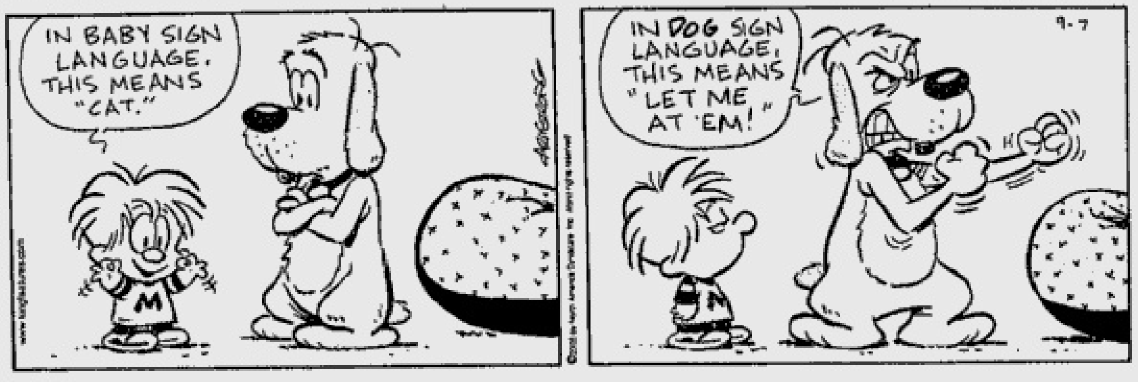
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM, CAN I HAVE MY DS BACK NOW?
ONE SEC. I'M TEACHING MY NINTENDOG A TRICK.
SHAKE!... GOOD BOY!... SHAKE!... GOOD BOY!... SHAKE!... GOOD BOY!... SHAKE!... GOOD BOY!... SHAKE!...
THIS IS ME SHAKING MY HEAD.
GOOD BOY!
9-7
AMEND

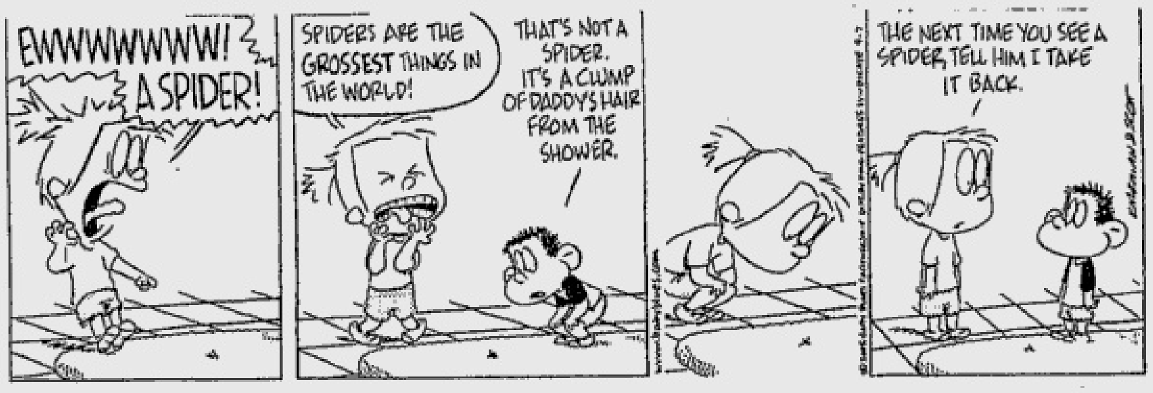
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IN BABY SIGN LANGUAGE, THIS MEANS "CAT."
IN DOG SIGN LANGUAGE, THIS MEANS "LET ME AT 'EM!"
9-7

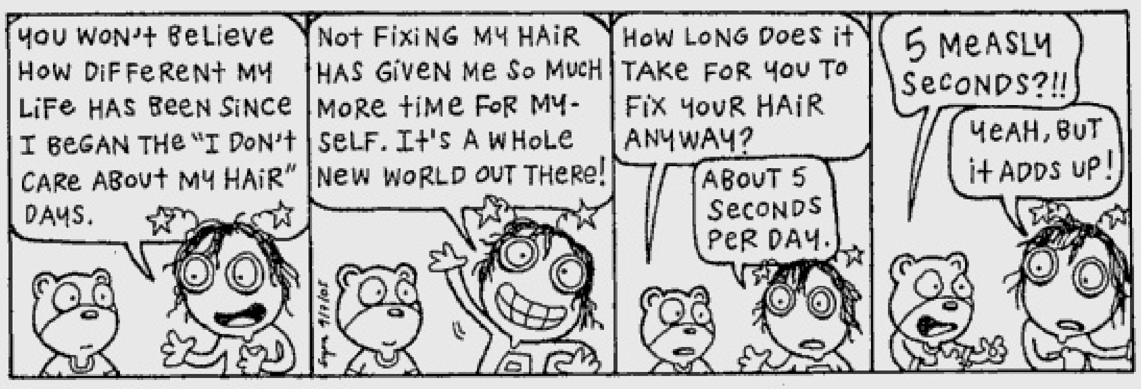
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


EWWWWWWW! A SPIDER!
SPIDERS ARE THE GROSSEST THINGS IN THE WORLD!
THAT'S NOT A SPIDER. IT'S A CLUMP OF DADDY'S HAIR FROM THE SHOWER.
THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE A SPIDER, TELL HIM I TAKE IT BACK.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You won't believe how different my life has been since I began the "I don't care about my hair" days.
Not fixing my hair has given me so much more time for myself. It's a whole new world out there!
How long does it take for you to fix your hair anyway?
About 5 seconds per day.
5 measly seconds?!!
Yeah, but it adds up!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Much of your success is due to your persevering attitude. Obstacles do not daunt you. Quite often, you develop a technical expertise in something. Your energy is intense, vibrant and constantly "on." Hard work pays off for you! You are a loyal friend. Expect major changes in the year ahead, perhaps as significant as those in 1996-97.

Birthdate of: Corbin Bernsen, actor; Buddy Holly, musician; Queen Elizabeth I, British monarch.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Take it easy today. Your optimism is still there; however, as the day progresses, obstacles will arise. (They're small potatoes. Relax.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You can accomplish a lot at work today, but it might be best to postpone important decisions until tomorrow. A co-worker might need your help today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Although you're still in the mood to play, the demands of work are increasing. Prepare yourself for some routine duties. One can never escape one's obligations for too long.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a good day to putter at home. It's not a good day to shop until later in the afternoon. Avoid important decisions for most of the day.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The responsibility for something you forgot about is suddenly right in your lap again. You can't ignore it. It's minor, but there. (Time for due diligence.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Definitely do not shop (except for food) or make important financial decisions this morning and in the early afternoon. You will regret it if you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): In a way, this is a bit of a goofy day for you. Don't try to do too much in the morning. As the day wears on, you suddenly get quite serious about work, however.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Do not let feelings of self-doubt rattle your cage. By the afternoon, you start to feel full of resolve and determination. Be prepared for the possibility that someone will rain on your parade tonight. (It's a minor thing.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Talk about your future plans with your friends. It's OK to be candid. (Actually, you always are.) Their feedback could be surprising.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Do not volunteer for anything or accept important responsibilities at work this morning or in the afternoon. Postpone decisions until tomorrow. Just say you need to sleep on it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're very open-minded about some far-out ideas today. That's OK. It's good to be open-minded and tolerant. However, do not act on these ideas. (At least, not until tomorrow.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is not a good day for financial planning or making decisions about how to share things with others. Your thinking is a bit off. Wait until tomorrow.

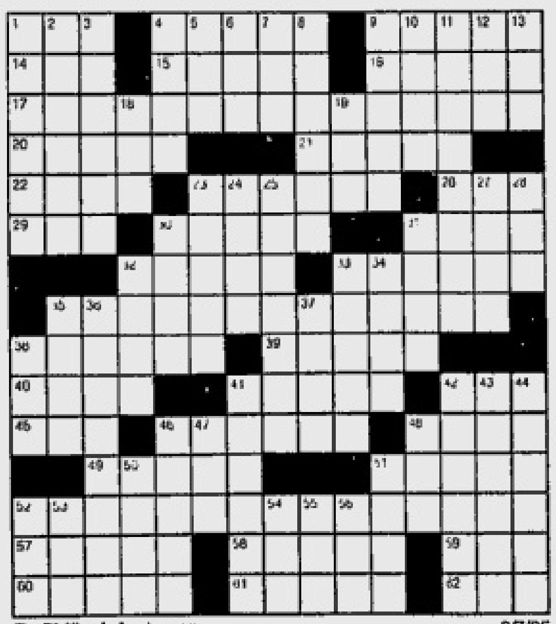
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Sch. near Harvard
4 Highland plant
9 Keyboard comic Victor
14 Docs' group
15 Bonehead
16 Stay away from
17 Had a mishap in the supermarket?
20 Luau dances
21 Improve
22 School collar
23 Seventh planet
26 Camera letters
29 Aachen article
30 Battery terminal
31 Of the ear
32 Homeric epic
33 Bear witness
35 Had a mishap at the laundry?
38 Photographer Parer
39 Archibald and Thurmond
40 Traveler's stops
41 Relevant: Lat.
42 E. Bilko or J. Friday
45 __ tai cocktail
46 Old Chevy model
48 1934-35 Heavyweight champ
49 Recto's opposite
51 Medicinal shrub
52 Had a mishap at the sewing shop?
57 Exposes
58 Olds model
59 Min. fraction
60 Storage box
61 Cut corners
62 Either part of a fly?

DOWN

1 Squashed
2 Attribute
3 Tux adjuster
4 Hodges and Gerard
5 Grand poem
6 Freed
7 Drunkard
8 Fuel ingredient
9 Hot tomatoes?
10 Hot box
11 Car with a rumble seat
12 Rummy call
13 O'Neill and Sullivan
18 PC group
19 Aussie bird
23 Alliance
24 Jeffers "__ Stallion"
25 Book supplements
27 Itemize
28 New GI
30 Der __ (Adenauer)
31 Elevator man?
32 Mother of Horus
33 Daisy relative
34 Those folk
35 Turner of "Madame X"
36 Indiscriminate consumer
37 Rani's dress
38 Poorly lit
41 Hilo hellos
42 Most rational
43 Artistic subdivisions
44 Stupefied state
46 Brittany port
47 NYC hrs.
48 Wager
50 Earns with great effort
51 Halt
52 U.K. channel
53 Team cheer
54 Rockies grazer
55 Louvre Pyramid designer
56 Limb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By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/7/05

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

T	H	U	S		M	A	V	E	N		C	L	U	B
W	A	L	T		O	B	E	S	E		O	O	Z	E
A	R	T	E		P	U	R	P	L	E	R	A	I	N
S	E	R	E	N	I	T	Y		S	P	A			
		A	L	O	E	S		H	O	I		P	B	S
R	I	V	E	T	S		L	A	N	C	E	L	O	T
A	N	I		E	T	H	I	C	S		R	U	D	E
C	H	O	R	D		E	L	K		M	A	M	I	E
H	A	L	O		P	L	A	S	M	A		P	C	P
E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C		A	R	G	U	E	S
L	E	T		H	E	X		R	U	L	E	D		
			H	I	E		C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R
A	N	T	O	N	M	A	U	V	E		R	I	M	E
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A	X	L	E		T	R	E	S	S		S	G	T	S

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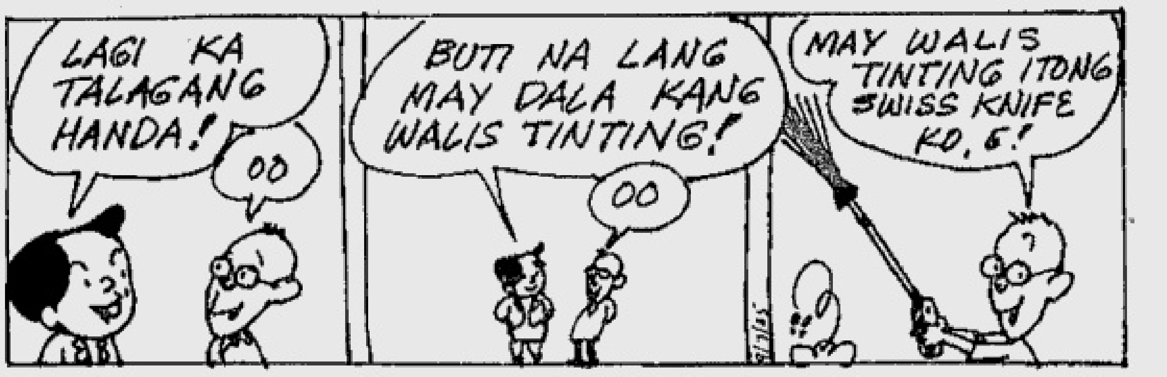
9/7/05

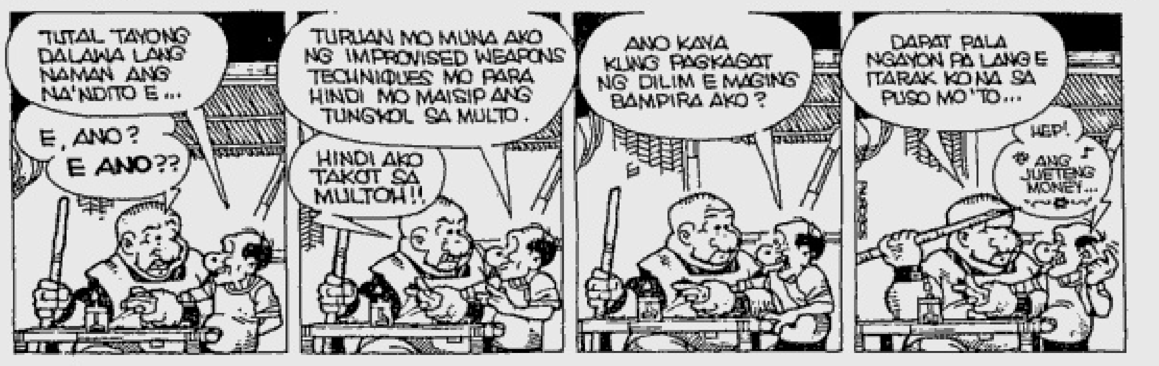
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LAGI KA TALAGANG HANDA!
OO
BUTI NA LANG MAY DALA KANG WALIS TINTING!
OO
MAY WALIS TINTING ITONG SWISS KNIFE KO, 6!

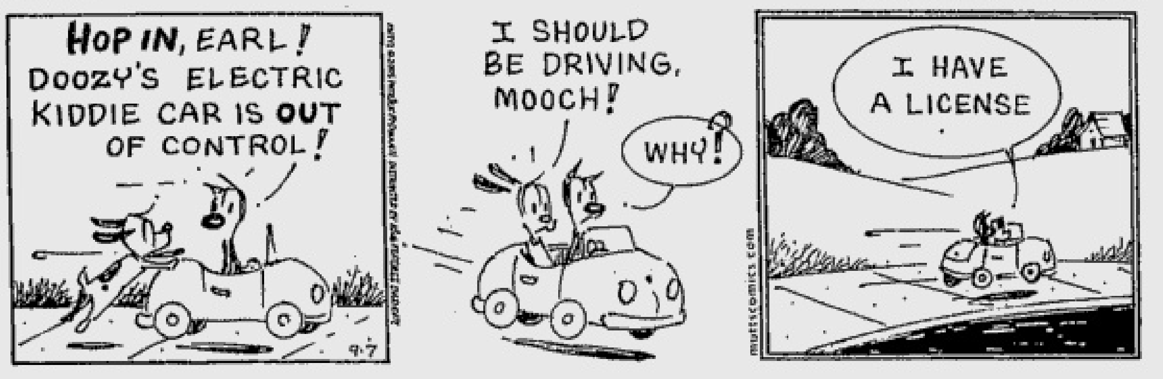
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TUTAL TAYONG DALAWA LANG NAMAN ANG NA'NDITO E...
E, ANO? E ANO??
TURUAN MO MUNA AKO NG IMPROVISED WEAPONS TECHNIQUES MO PARA HINDI MO MAISIP ANG TUNGKOL SA MULTO.
HINDI AKO TAKOT SA MULTOH!!
ANO KAYA KUNG PAGKAGAT NG DILIM E MAGING BAMPIRA AKO?
DAPAT PALA NGAYON PA LANG E ITARAK KO NA SA PUSO MO 'TO...
HEP!
ANG JUETENG MONEY...

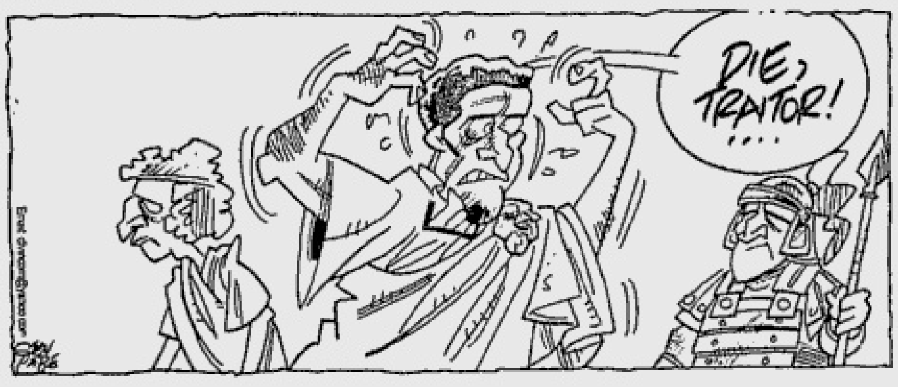
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOP IN, EARL! DOOZY'S ELECTRIC KIDDIE CAR IS OUT OF CONTROL!
I SHOULD BE DRIVING, MOOCH!
WHY?
I HAVE A LICENSE
9-7
muttscomics.com

DIVINE COMEDY

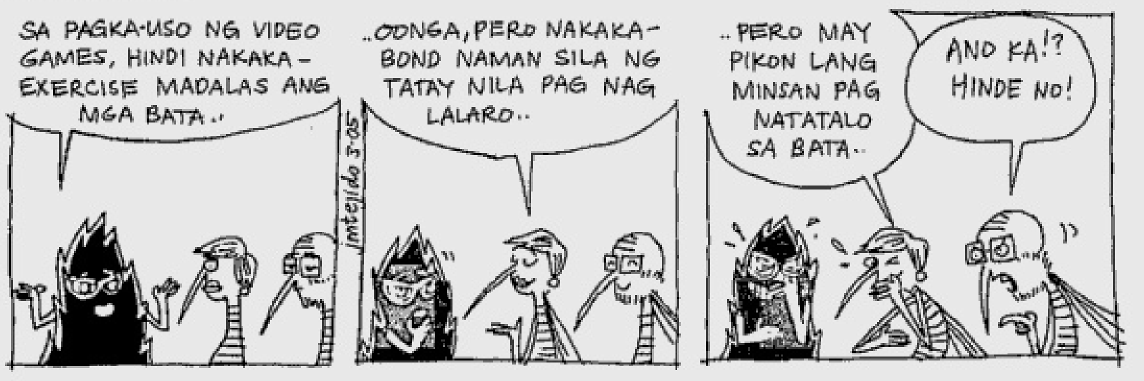
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


DIE, TRAITOR!

NAG-HIGANTI SI JULIUS CAESAR SA KANYANG ASSASSIN NA SI BRUTUS NANG SYA AY NAG-REINCARNATE BILANG ISANG KUTO

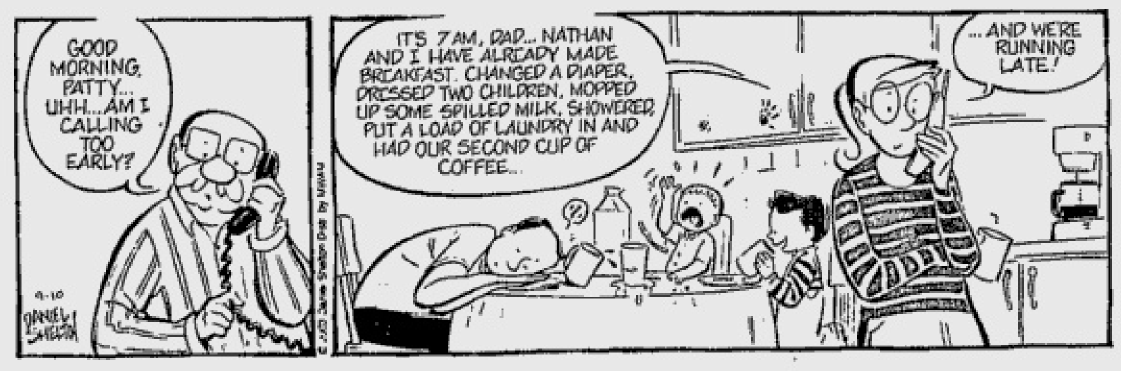
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA PAGKA-USO NG VIDEO GAMES, HINDI NAKAKA-EXERCISE MADALAS ANG MGA BATA..
..OONGA, PERO NAKAKA-BOND NAMAN SILA NG TATAY NILA PAG NAG LALARO..
..PERO MAY PIKON LANG MINSAN PAG NATATALO SA BATA..
ANO KA!? HINDE NO!
jmtejido 3-05

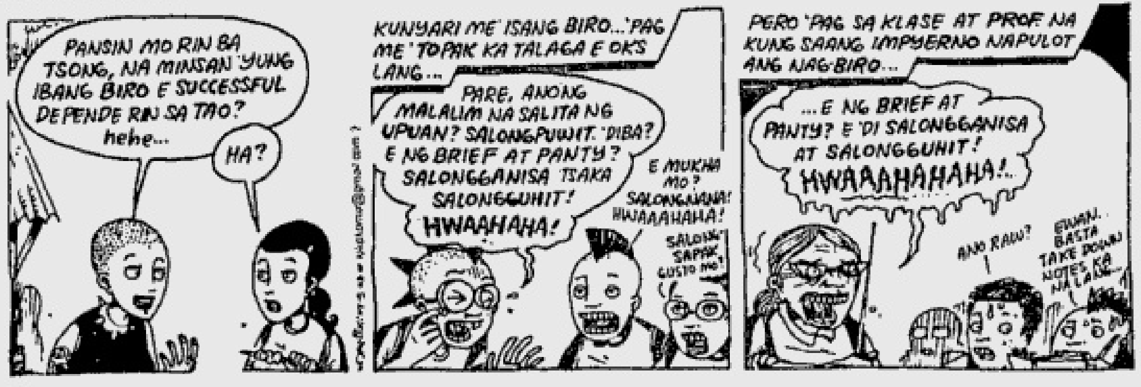
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


GOOD MORNING, PATTY... UHH... AM I CALLING TOO EARLY?
IT'S 7 AM, DAD... NATHAN AND I HAVE ALREADY MADE BREAKFAST, CHANGED A DIAPER, DRESSED TWO CHILDREN, MOPPED UP SOME SPILLED MILK, SHOWERED, PUT A LOAD OF LAUNDRY IN AND HAD OUR SECOND CUP OF COFFEE...
...AND WE'RE RUNNING LATE!
9-10
DANIEL SHELTON

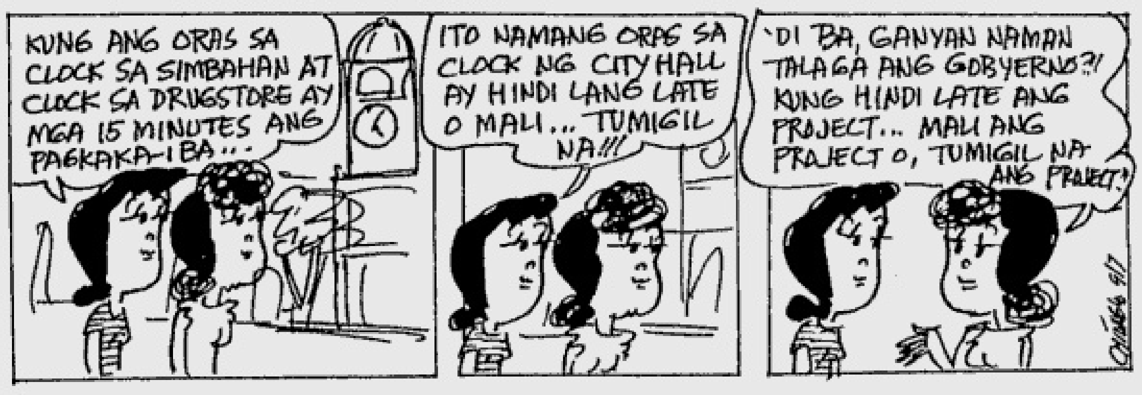
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PANSIN MO RIN BA TSONG, NA MINSAN 'YUNG IBANG BIRO E SUCCESSFUL DEPENDE RIN SA TAO? hehe...
HA?
KUNYARI ME' ISANG BIRO...'PAG ME' TOPAK KA TALAGA E OKS LANG...
PARE, ANONG MALALIM NA SALITA NG UPUAN? SALONGPUWIT. 'DIBA? E NG BRIEF AT PANTY? SALONGGANISA TSAKA SALONGGUHIT! HWAAHAHA!
E MUKHA MO? SALONGNANA! HWAAAHAHA!
SALDIN SAPAK GUSTO MO!
PERO 'PAG SA KLASE AT PROF NA KUNG SAANG IMPYERNO NAPULOT ANG NAG-BIRO...
...E NG BRIEF AT PANTY? E 'DI SALONGGANISA AT SALONGGUHIT! HWAAAHAHAHA!..
ANO RAW?
EWAN. BASTA TAKE DOWN NOTES KA NA LANG...

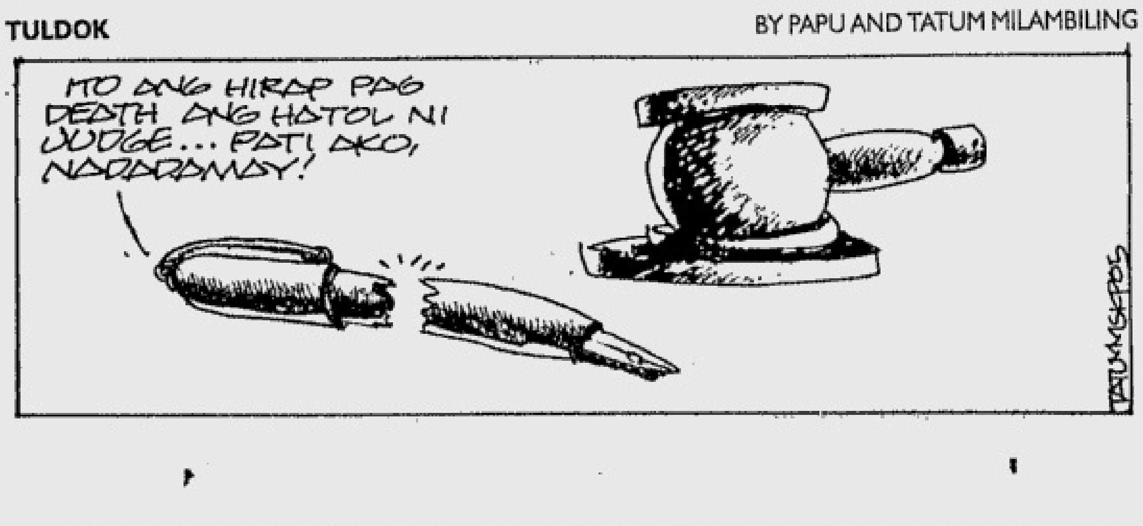
LOVEKNOTS

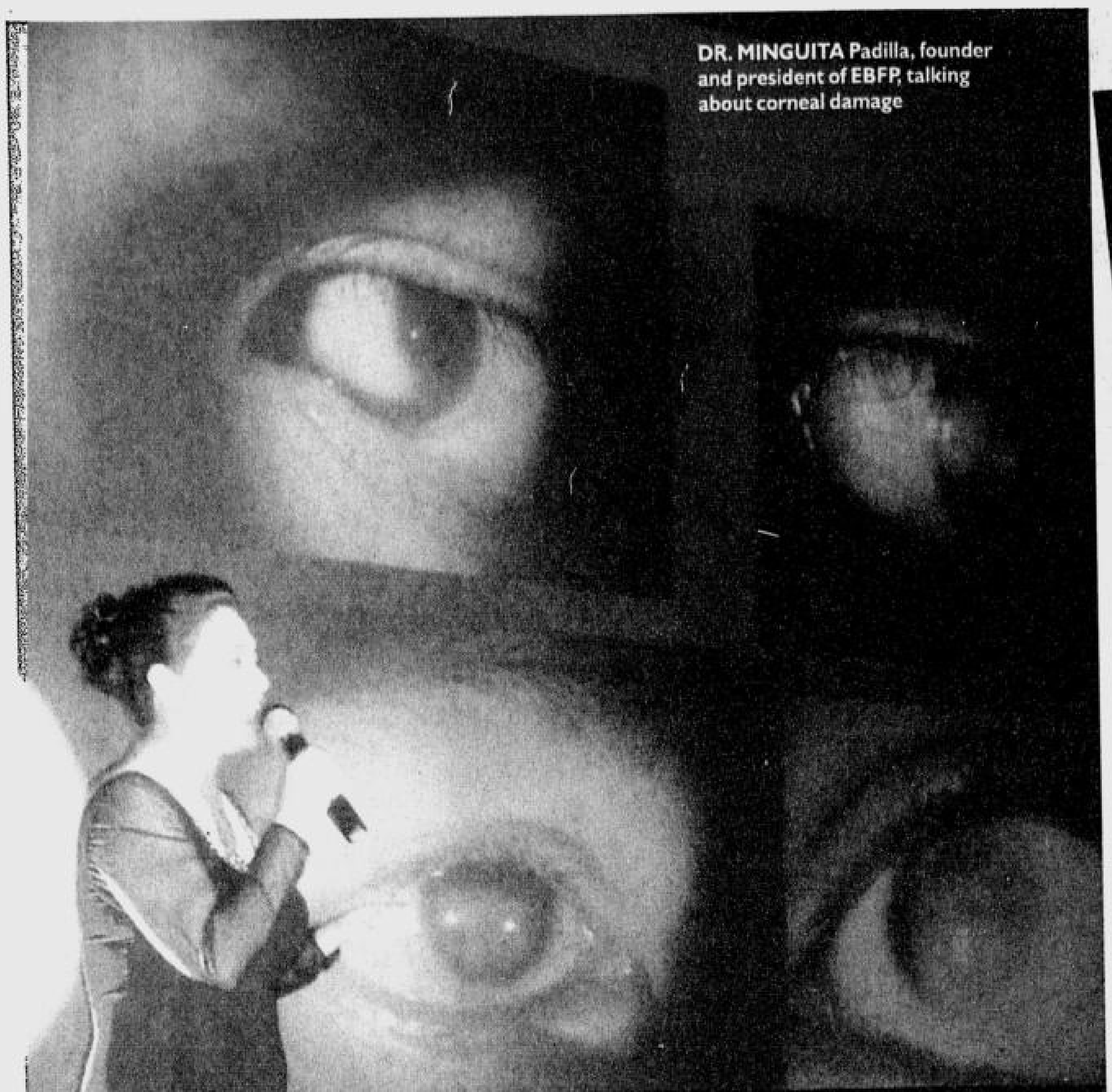
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG ANG ORAS SA CLOCK SA SIMBAHAN AT CLOCK SA DRUGSTORE AY MGA 15 MINUTES ANG PAGKAKA-IBA...
ITO NAMANG ORAS SA CLOCK NG CITY HALL AY HINDI LANG LATE O MALI... TUMIGIL NA!!!
'DI BA, GANYAN NAMAN TALAGA ANG GOBYERNO?! KUNG HINDI LATE ANG PROJECT... MALI ANG PROJECT O, TUMIGIL NA ANG PROJECT!

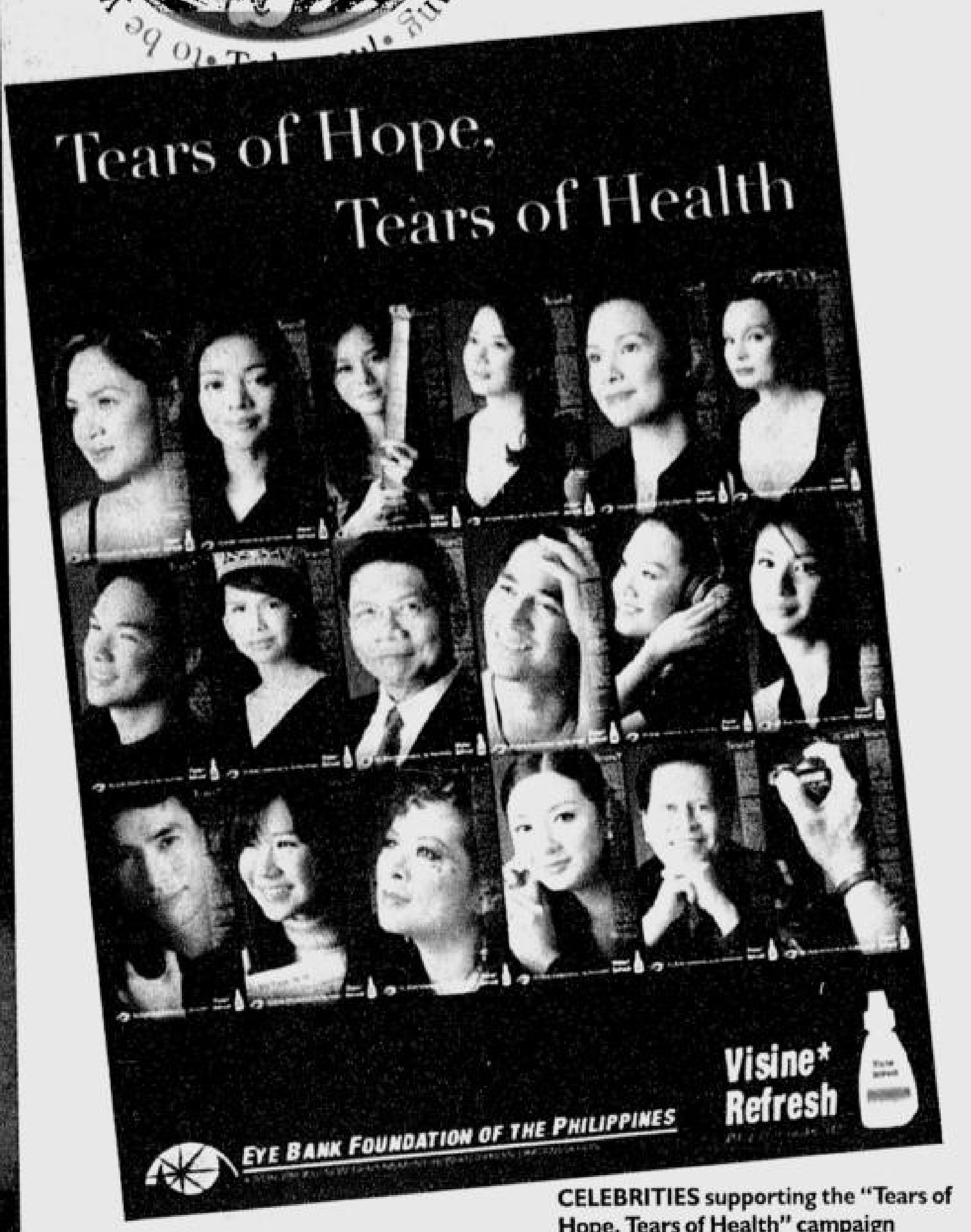
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ITO ANG HIRAP PAG DEATH ANG HATOL NI JUDGE... PATI AKO, NADADAMAY!
TATUM



DR. MINGUITA Padilla, founder and president of EBFP, talking about corneal damage



CELEBRITIES supporting the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign

Heroes in someone else's eyes

Text and photos by Arlene Paredes
2bU! Contributor

YOU ARE YOUNG, HEALTHY AND effervescent with aspirations for your family and yourself. The sight of your loved ones inspires you to pursue your undertakings and hope for the best in your future. You are studying in a reputable university, trying to make your dreams come true or still trying to figure out what you really want to do with your life. You have a vision for yourself. And you want to see this vision fulfilled. Now, when your mind is focused on living and getting everything you can get out of life, how would you react when an organization approach you to consider what you can do after you die? Would you be willing to be a hero and continue to live long after you're gone?

"Be a hero in someone's eyes; be a cornea or eye donor."

For over 10 years now, this is what the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP) has been doing—encouraging Filipinos to leave a legacy of sight and bringing a fire of hope to people in need of sight-restoring surgery.

It was the eve of National Heroes' Day when 2bU! attended "Vision for a Vision" dinner at the Nicotina Garden Pavilion and joined a roomful of modern-day heroes led by Dr. Minguita Padilla, founder and president of EBFP, in celebrating 10 years of restoring sight to those in need of a cornea transplant.

The cornea is the transparent tissue covering our eye and transmitting light to the brain. An accident resulting in eye injury, a disease or some hereditary conditions can damage the cornea and subsequently reduce vision to the point of corneal blindness. EBFP's mission is to alleviate corneal blindness, one of the top four causes of remediable blindness in the country and in the world.

EBFP, a nonprofit, nongovernment, humanitarian organization, hopes to convince more people to pledge their corneal tissue for the sake of those who are blind. "At any one point there are at least 300 people waiting for corneal tissue in the reservation list of the Eye Bank. Although the four to five months waiting time is very good by world standards, each additional day in darkness is like an eternity for someone ignited with the hope of restored sight. With the help of our generous supporters we hope to cut this waiting time at least in half so that we may help more people, and help them more effectively," said Dr. Padilla.

EBFP manages and operates the Santa Lucia International Eye Bank of Manila (SLIEB), which is the only internationally accredited, active, state-of-the-art, 24-hour eye-banking facility in the country.

Asking for organ and tissue donation calls for a lot of courage. Fortunately, the founder of EBFP had more than just unwavering courage; she has the firm determination to fulfill the EBFP vision and bring sight back especially to indigent Filipinos. "We were working practically alone, very quietly (in the beginning)... In fact some people said, 'You'll never make it,'" shares Dr. Padilla, grateful that financial and technical support eventually reached them and more people have continuously supported the eye bank and the EBFP vision.

A donated cornea and eye tissue is the only chance for many people to restore their eyesight. Topnotch broadcast journalist Che Che Lazaro is one of the many grateful recipients of a cornea transplant. An 18-year-old girl, whom we shall call "Baby Joy," from Binalonan, Pangasinan, had congenital corneal blindness which slowly affected her since she was 2 months old. She was finally able to regain her eyesight around two yeas ago through the help of EBFP. A member of Cafgu (Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit) slowly lost his vision during a mission in Mindanao in 1993. He regained his eyesight just last year after two successful corneal transplants.

However, thousands of people are still waiting for heroes with generous hearts to donate his or her eyes upon death or the eyes of a family member who had just died. The good news is we can all be eye donors. We can contact EBFP and pledge our cornea tissues now.

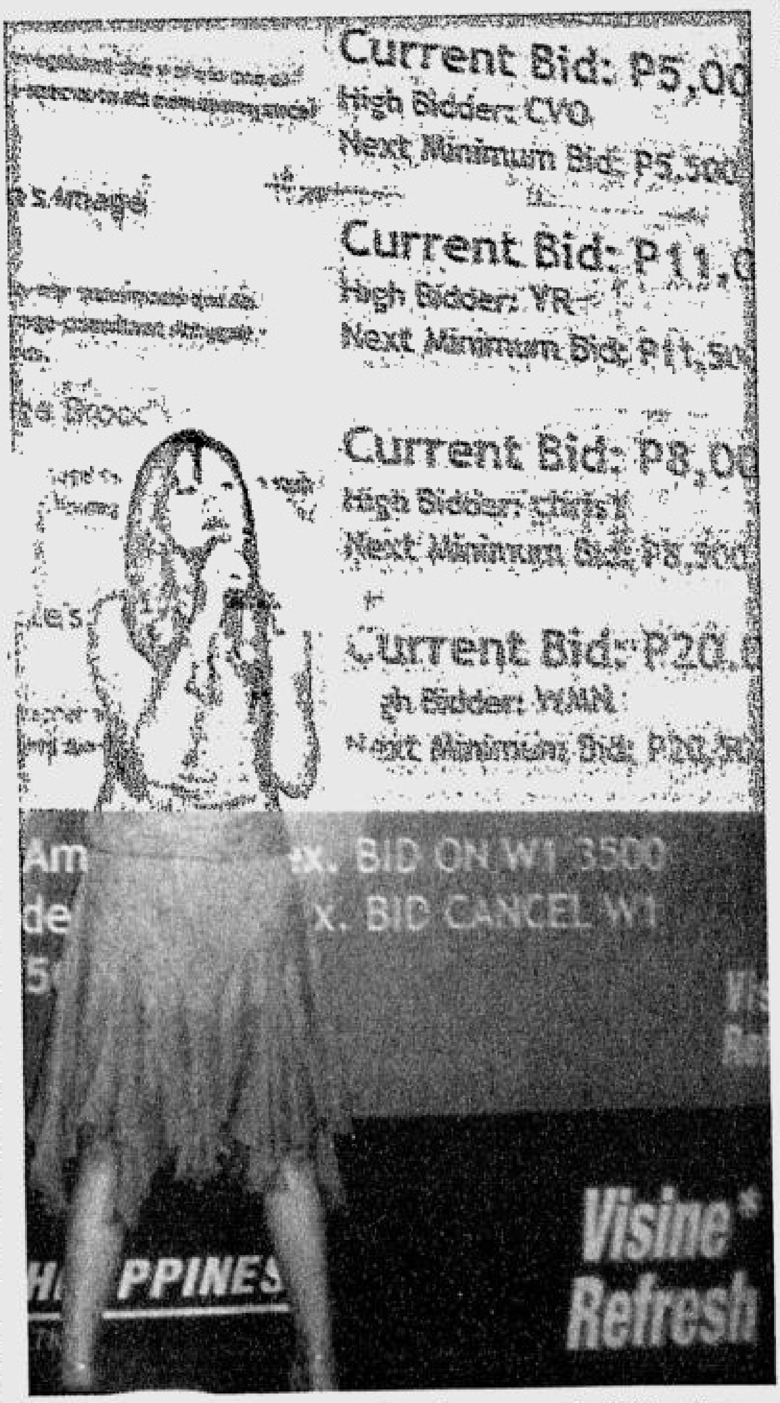
Sarah Geronimo, one of the youngest celebrity supporters of EBFP, says she is very happy to be a part of the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign of EBFP. The young singing champion muses, "Tickets *din po 'yun sa* heaven..."

With all things considered and put in good perspective, wouldn't you want to be a hero in someone else's eyes, too?

"Vision for a Vision" was a fundraising dinner attended by the supporters of the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign of EBFP and Visine Refresh. The night was a culminating activity for Sight Saving Month, highlighted by an auction of precious items previously owned by celebrity supporters of EBFP, like director Jose Javier Reyes, actress Rica Peralejo, broadcast journalist and cornea recipient Che Che Lazaro, former Bb. Pilipinas Universe Abbygale Arenas-De Leon, top photographer Jun De Leon and makeup expert Juan Sarte.

The Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines is at Suite 246 Makati Medical Center, 2 Amorsolo St., Makati City. Telefax No:. 8935995; cell phone 0917-8935995; E-mail eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

E-mail the author at lhen@postmark.net



YOUNG EBFP supporter Sarah Geronimo graces the "Vision for a Vision" dinner.

Important facts about eye donation

MANY BLIND PEOPLE CAN SEE almost perfectly after a corneal transplant. The damaged corneas are replaced with clear tissues supplied by the bank.

Anyone, regardless of age, whether or not you wear eyeglasses or contact lenses, or had an eye disease may donate their corneas for transplant.

One may choose to donate their corneal tissue alone or the entire eye. Other parts of the eye may also be used for sight-saving surgeries.

There are no visible signs of the eye or corneal removal. Once removed, they are replaced with an eye cap or prosthetic so that the appearance of the face is maintained.

Corneal or eye donation is not contrary to most church doctrine. Organ donation is not a desecration of the human body. It is supported and approved by the most religious denominations.

Source: The Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines primer

Feeling alive at the . . .

From page D1

five kilometers from the bus to the field. A tedious walk.

While walking, I realized how fortunate I was to be a part of the celebration. I thought of the struggles I endured to come to Germany. I thought of how, with the help of other people and especially with the grace of God, I was able to make it. Walking to the site of the celebration was like walking with Jesus Christ while he carried his Cross.

Just when I was feeling a bit tired, I saw this man without an arm and a leg walking to the celebration with crutches. His struggle and dedication moved me to admire God's grace.

It was a night of celebration and communion. I was struck when the Holy Father said, "My particular greeting goes to those who, like the Magi, have come from the East. You are the representatives of so many of our brothers and sisters who are waiting, without realizing it, for the star to rise in their skies and lead them to Christ, Light of the Nations, in whom they will find the fullest response to their hearts' deepest desires."

The Holy Father's greeting was especially meaningful for those who came from the Philippines. We spent the cold night in the field and left before the Mass ended because we would miss our flight if we didn't. It was a very difficult choice. But again we had to make the sacrifice.

The World Youth Day was above all a celebration of the faith. We made it to Germany by sheer faith. We let Christ enter our lives. Now we are fully alive.

Recognizing volunteer-heroes

THIS COULD BE YOU. OR YOUR friend or your officemate... or your son..... or your sister...

In partnership with Hands on Manila Foundation, Inc., HSBC will launch the HSBC Faces of Volunteerism program during the HOM Volunteer In Person Day (VIP) on Oct. 21 at the Rockwell Loft, Makati City.

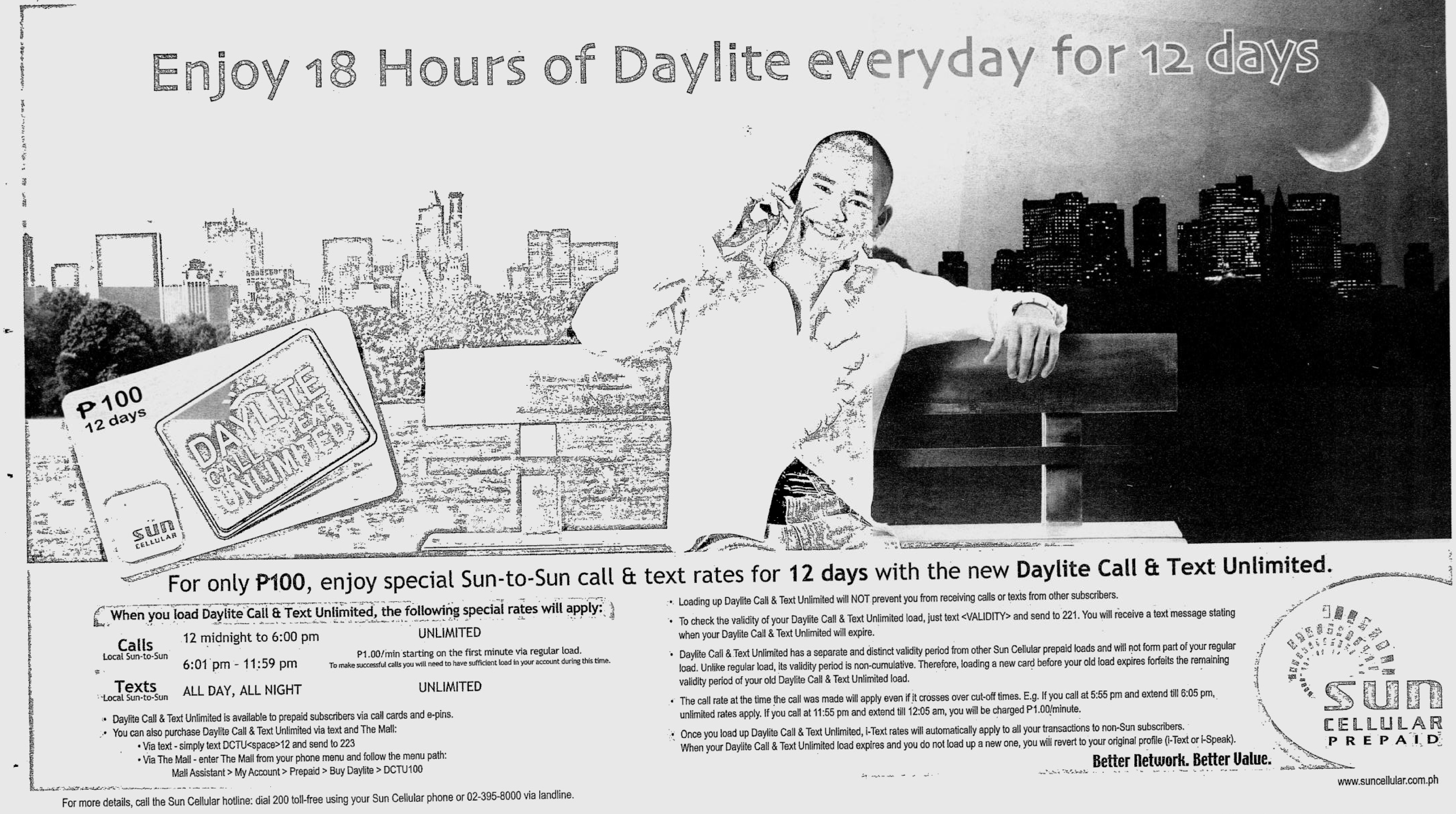
Faces of Volunteerism aims to recognize Metro Manila's everyday heroes who in their everyday lives touch those who need them most. They are those who share meals in shelters, spend Saturdays reading books to sick children in hospitals, or go out on weekends to build homes for the homeless.

HSBC's Faces of Volunteerism also wants to encourage volunteers to come up with innovative ways and means to help others. On VIP Day, the Top 5 HSBC Faces of Volunteerism will be recognized and will receive a P20,000 grant for a volunteer project of their choice.

If you know of anyone who deserves to be recognized, send your entries with the following details by Sept. 30.

1. Name
2. Age
3. School/company/organization
4. Occupation (if applicable)
5. Volunteer experience in the last year. Talk about your:
   a. Organizations/projects involved in, including contact person/numbers/addresses
   b. Duration/frequency
   c. Activity/task involved
   d. How your service was significant to the project
   e. Why you chose this program/project
   f. How the experience affected you
6. Documentation
   g. 2x2 photo
   h. Certification from community/organization
7. Two references (name, contact information)
8. Briefly describe your proposal project. Please give:.
   a. Details of the organization including contact information
   b. Title of the project
   c. Objectives
   d. Project duration
   e. Activities including role of volunteers
   f. Budget

Entries may be sent to HSBC Faces of Volunteerism c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Bldg., Chino Roces Avenue Makati City or Hands on Manila Foundation, Inc., Unit LP10 Medical Plaza Makati Bldg., Amorsolo cor dela Rosa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City or E-mail homla@info.com.ph



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  - Via text - simply text DCTU<space>12 and send to 223
  - Via The Mall - enter The Mall from your phone menu and follow the menu path:
    Mall Assistant > My Account > Prepaid > Buy Daylite > DCTU100

For more details, call the Sun Cellular hotline: dial 200 toll-free using your Sun Cellular phone or 02-395-8000 via landline.

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